

Archie

ADVENTURE
SERIES

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JULY

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

SONIC

THE FUGITIVE

ENDGAME
PART 2 OF 4



Years ago, most of the young residents of **Planet Mobius** were forced into war, defending themselves against the conspiracy of **Julian**, former **Warlord of the Kingdom of Acorn**. Most notable of these "freedom fighters" is a team led by the King's own daughter, and championed by the swiftest hero in the land. While their past efforts have been valiant, they have been a far cry from the total defeat of the rechristened **Dr. Robotnik**.

When their former **sire** staged a miraculous return to health, fortune seemed to shine on our stalwart heroes. The glistening hope of more experienced **leadership** paved the way for potential salvation.

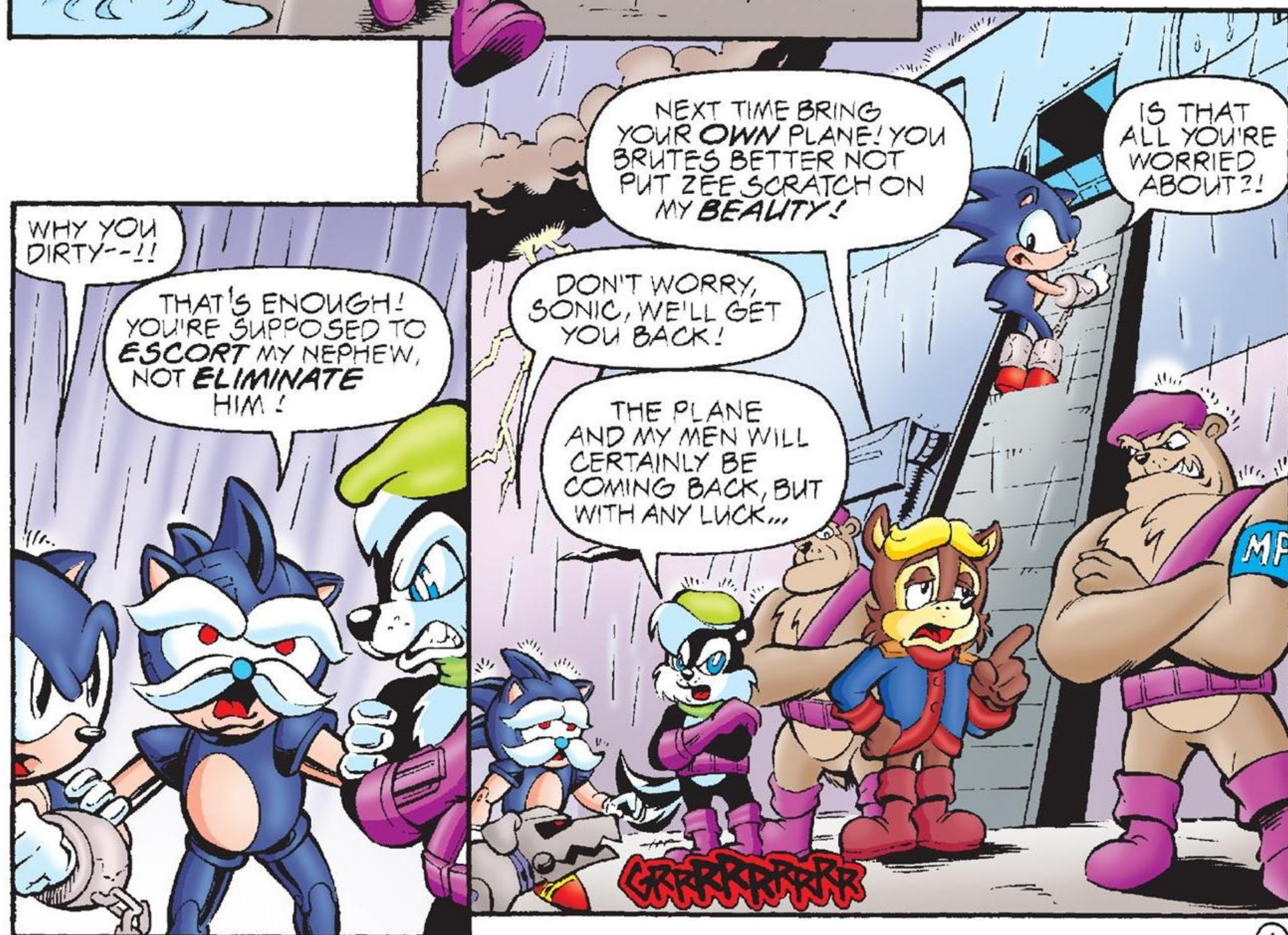
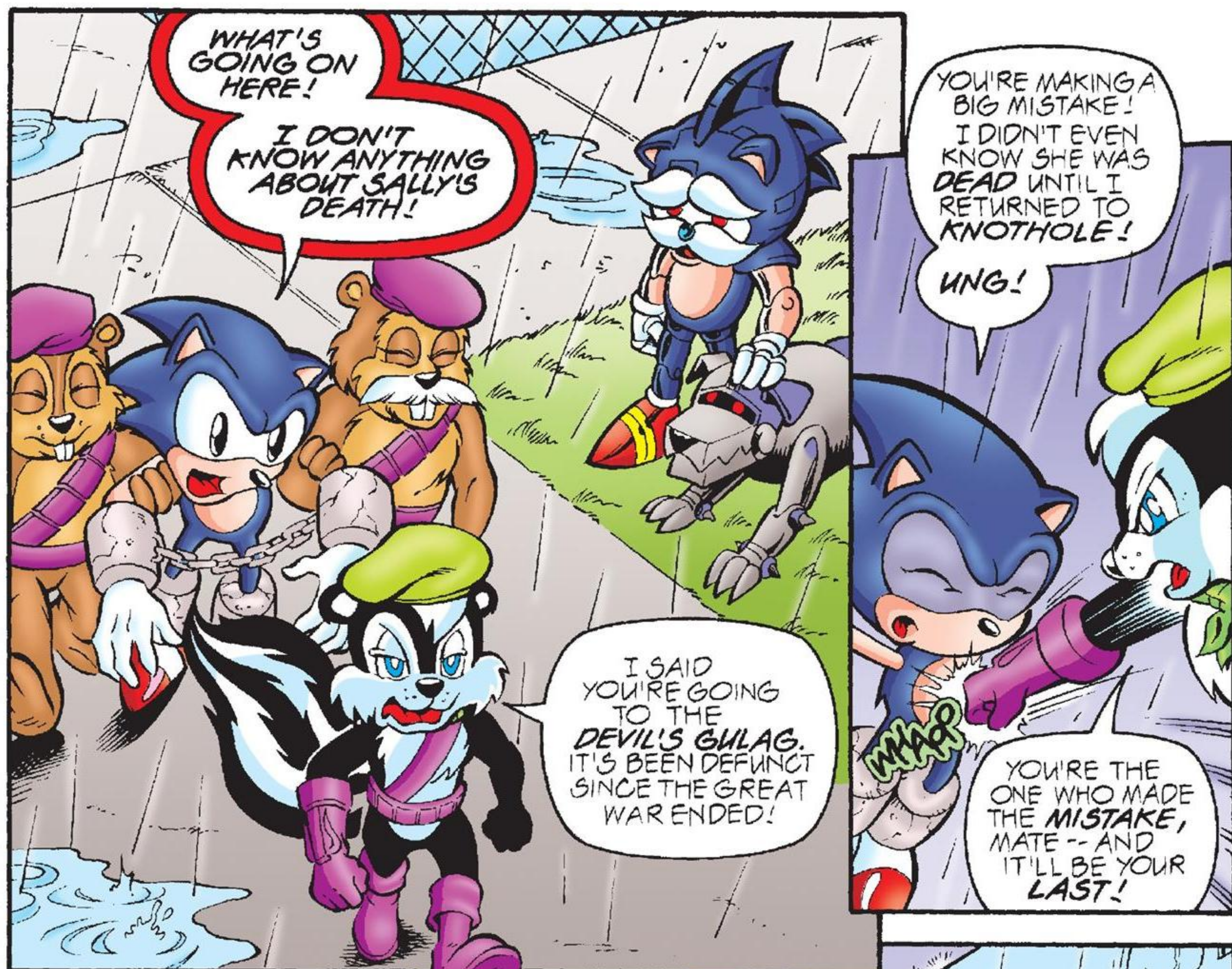
Alas, it was not to be...

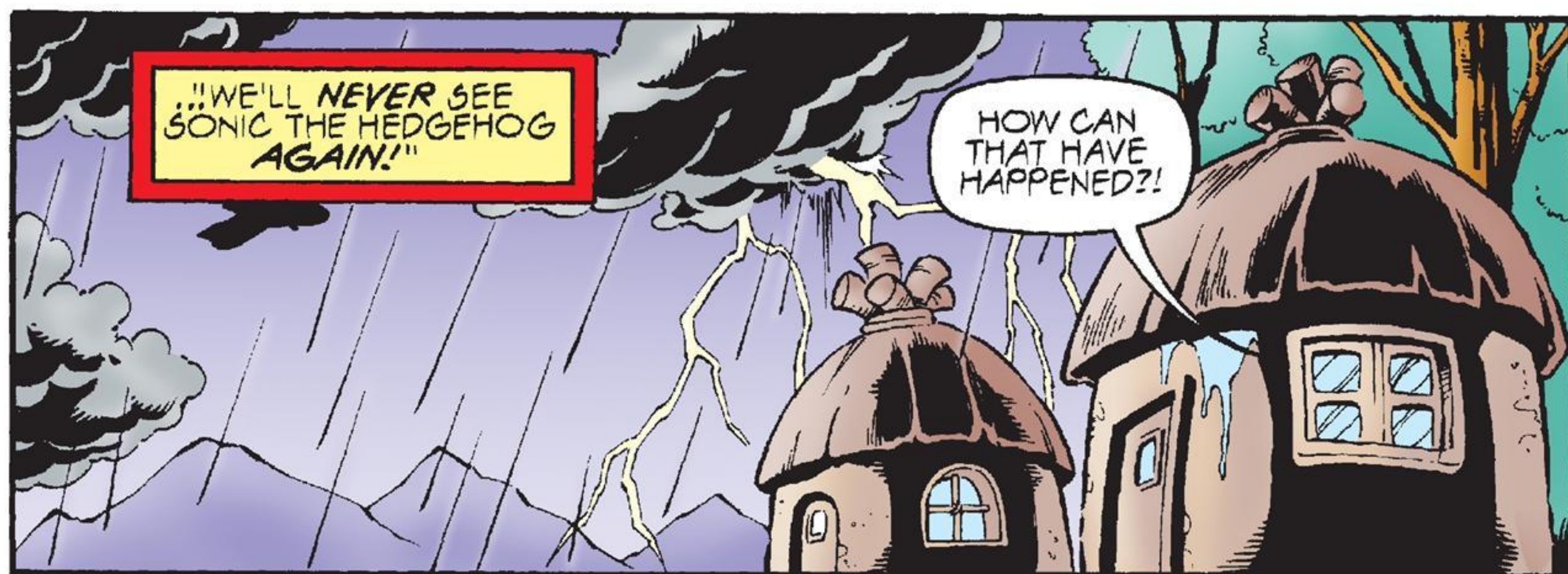
During their latest mission, **Princess Sally Acorn** met sudden tragedy. Returned to **Knockhole Village**, she was pronounced **DEAD**. Almost as tragic was the revelation that she died at the hands of...

Sonic The Hedgehog himself!

Pronouncing sentence, the king condemned the "former" hero to a life of imprisonment. While it is clear that treachery and deceit abound, it is equally unclear who all the conspirators are of this swift **injustice**. While it is certain that the dark forces of **Robotropolis** are preparing their next move, it is equally uncertain whether our heroes will rally, recreating the former glory of the once-gleaming city of **Mobotropolis**.

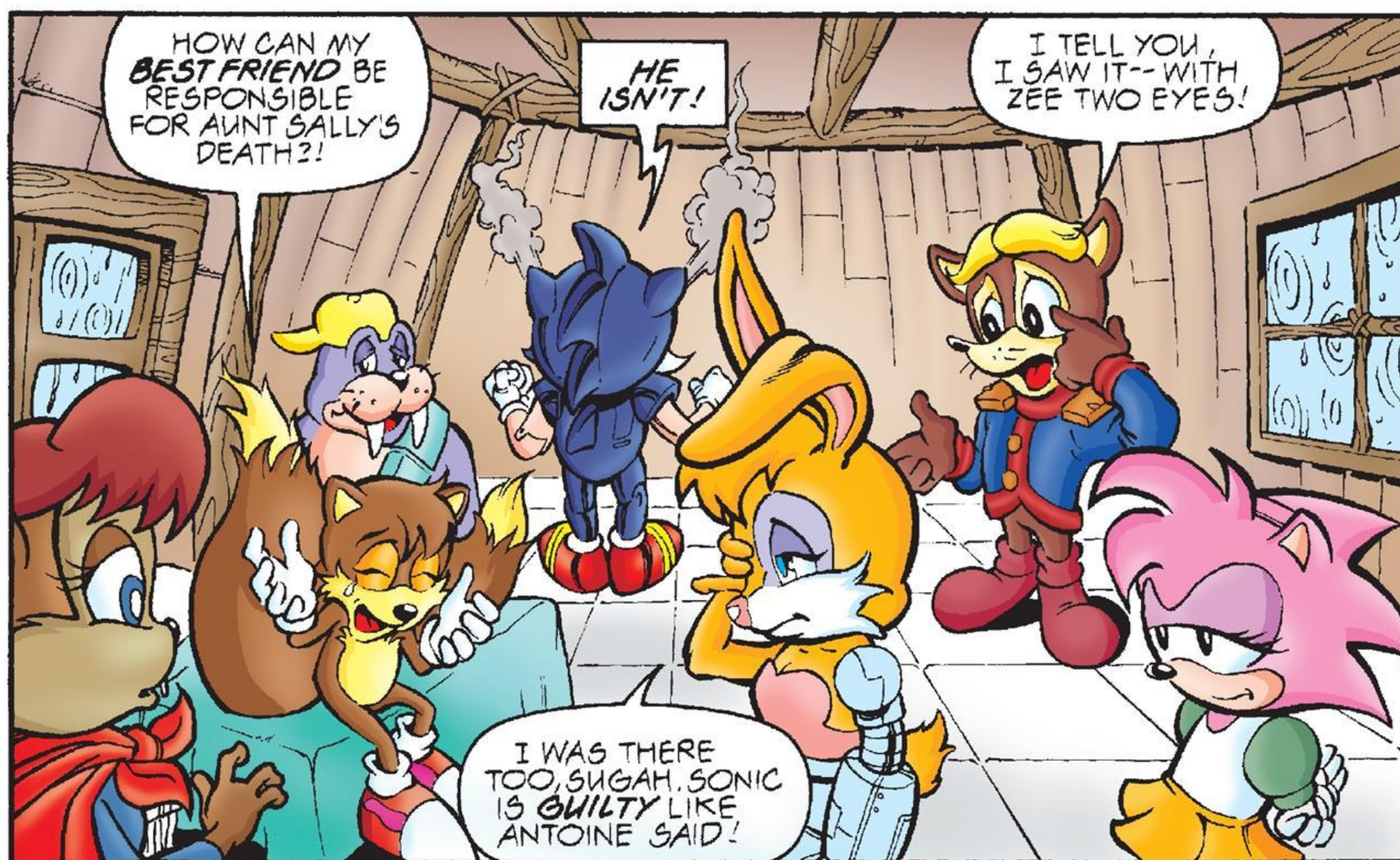
One thing cannot be disputed — no one will ever be the same...





...!!WE'LL NEVER SEE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AGAIN!!"

HOW CAN THAT HAVE HAPPENED?!

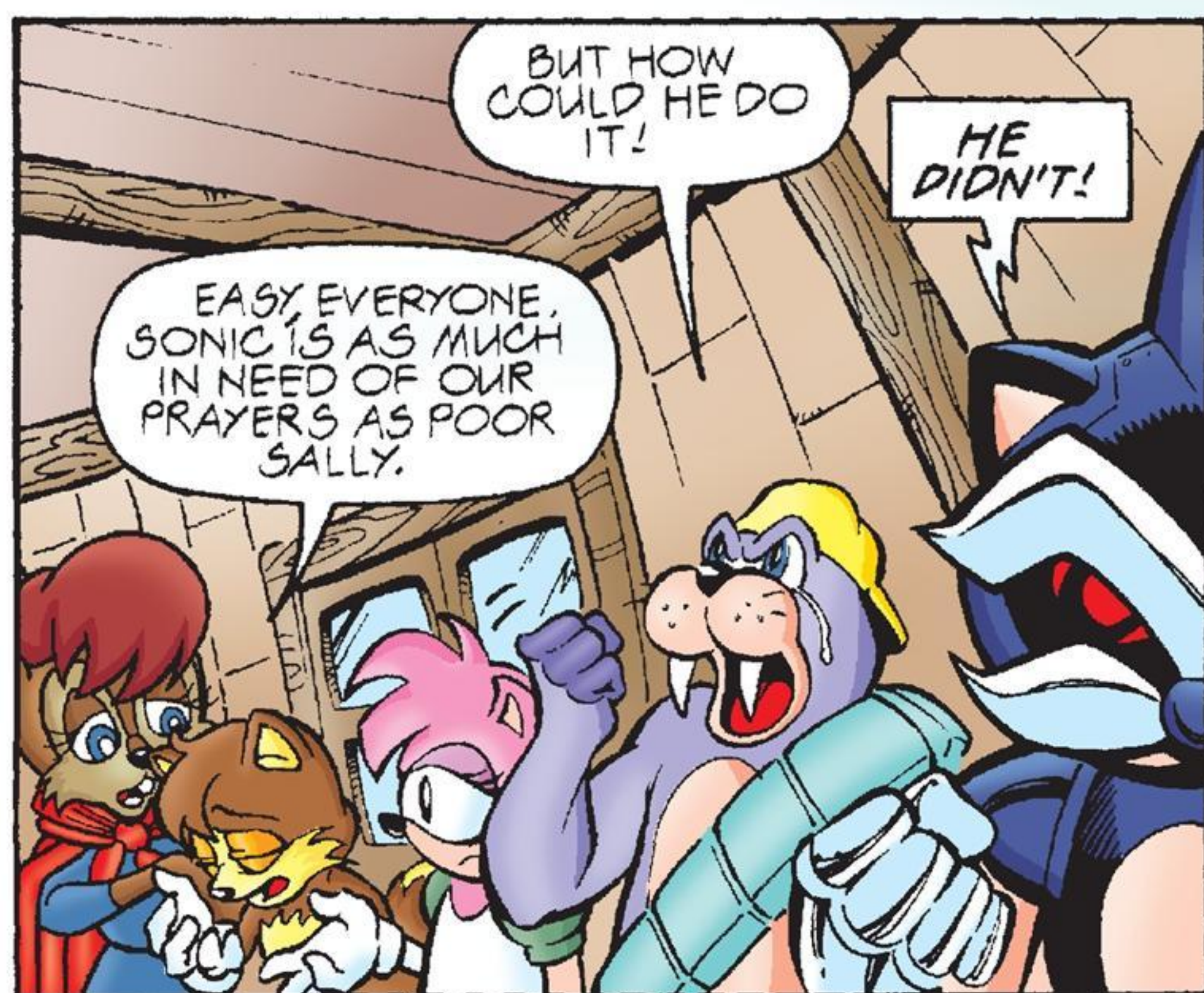


HOW CAN MY **BEST FRIEND** BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AUNT SALLY'S DEATH?!

HE ISN'T!

I TELL YOU, I SAW IT-- WITH ZEE TWO EYES!

I WAS THERE TOO, SUGAR. SONIC IS **GUILTY** LIKE ANTOINE SAID!



BUT HOW COULD HE DO IT!

HE DIDN'T!

EASY EVERYONE, SONIC IS AS MUCH IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS AS POOR SALLY.



BAHAWW! I JUST HEARD!; Sob; AT LEAST SHE'S AT PEACE! BUT HOW WILL SONIC LIVE WITH WHAT HE'S DONE?!

EEE HEE HEE!

THERE, THERE GIRL! REMEMBER, SOMETIMES THINGS **ARE NOT** ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM...

CURRENTLY, HOWEVER,
THINGS SEEM PRETTY
BLEAK FOR OUR "EX?"
HERO...

THIS WHOLE
MESS STARTED WHEN
SAL GOT ORDERS TO
INVADE ROBOTROPOLIS
FROM HER DAD-- A GUY
SUPPOSEDLY TURNING
TO **CRYSTAL!***

AND NOW THAT SAME
KING HAS EXILED ME TO
THE PLACE OF MY BOY-
HOOD NIGHTMARES --

WHERE MY DAD USED
TO TELL ME ALL **BAD**
BOYS AND WAR PRIS-
ONERS WERE SENT --

--THE
DEVIL'S GULAG!

*KING ACORN'S MALADY WAS
REVEALED IN SONIC QUEST #1--ED

HOW'D HE
GET BETTER SO
FAST AND...

LOOKS LIKE I WASN'T
THE ONLY **DOUBLE AGENT!**
WHAT DID ROBOTNIK
PROMISE YOU--YOUR VERY
OWN **CHILI DOG CHAIN?**

Huh?

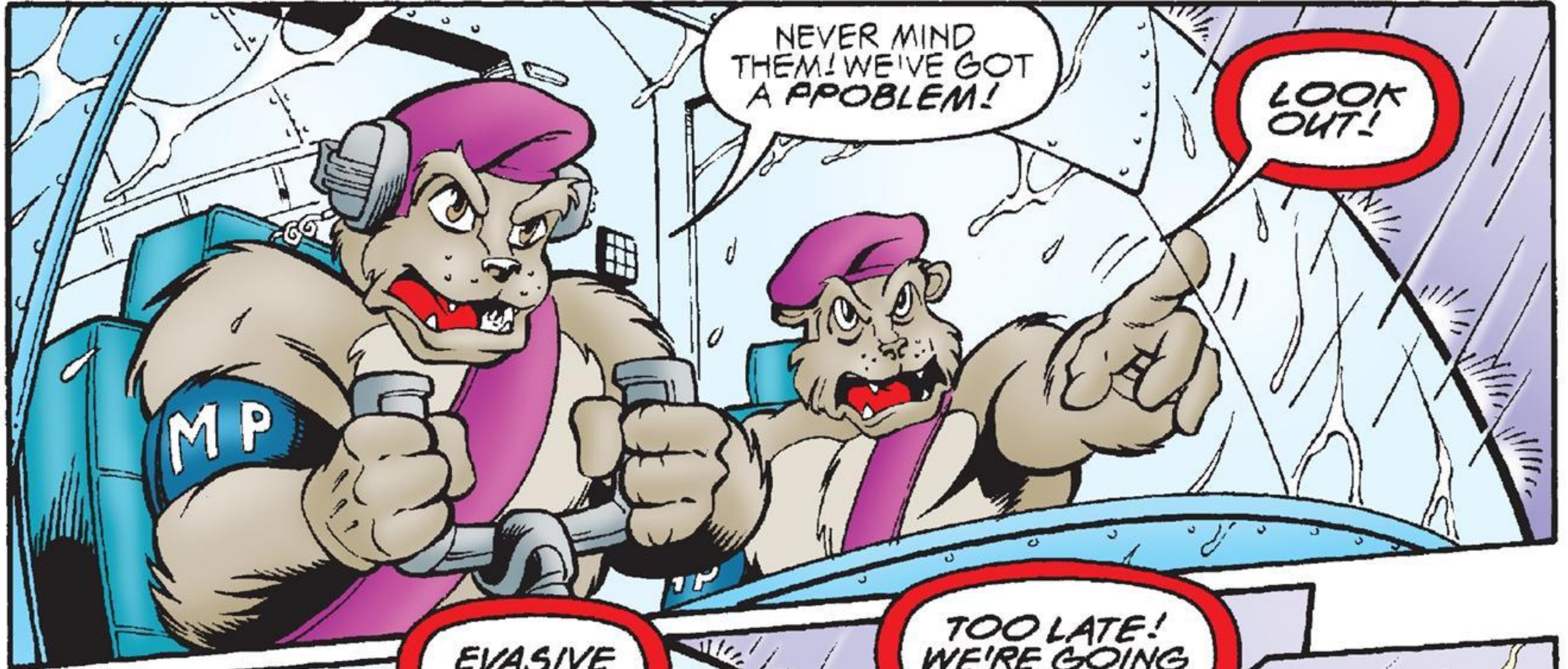
SLEUTH DOGGY DOG!
YOU TREASONOUS TRAITOR! *
I'M GONNA... Umph!

Haw! Haw! THE ONCE
HEROIC SONIC, REDUCED
TO A CHAINED-UP **CON!**
YOU TEAR ME UP!

I'LL REALLY
TEAR YOU GUYS
UP IF YOU DON'T
SHUT UP!

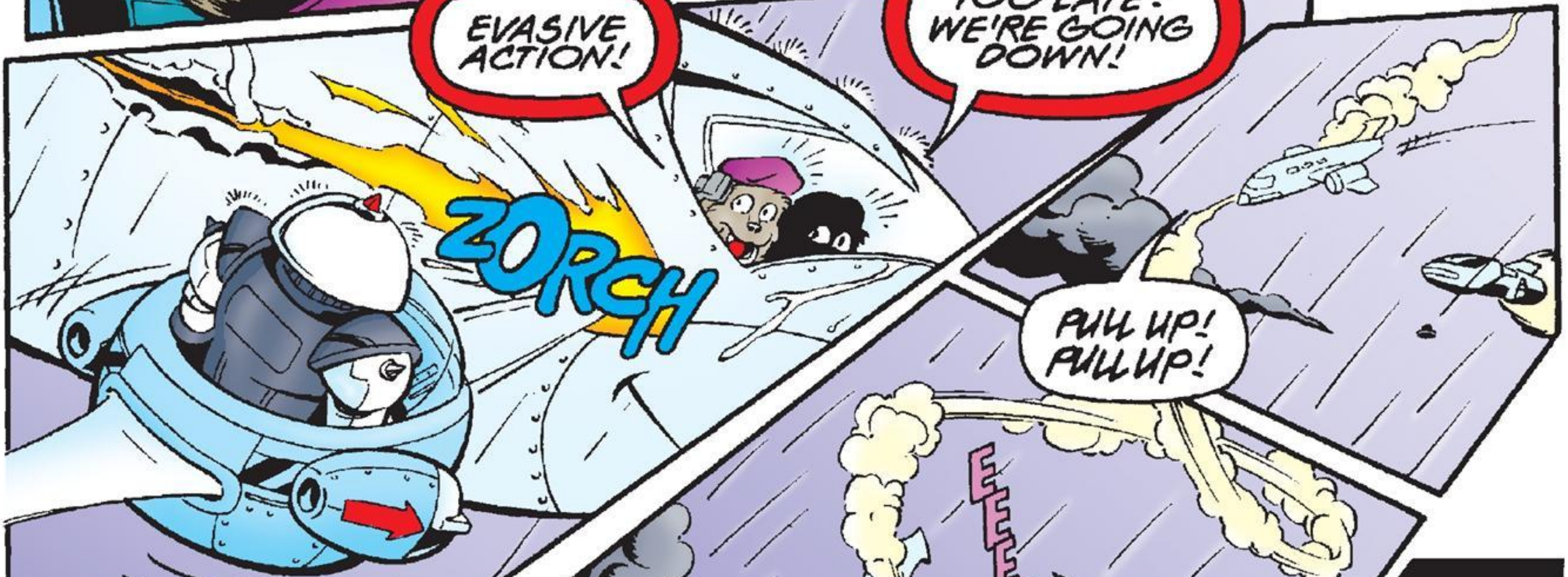
KACHINK

*SLEUTH'S TREACHERY WAS
REVEALED IN SONIC #42-- EDITOR.



NEVER MIND THEM! WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!

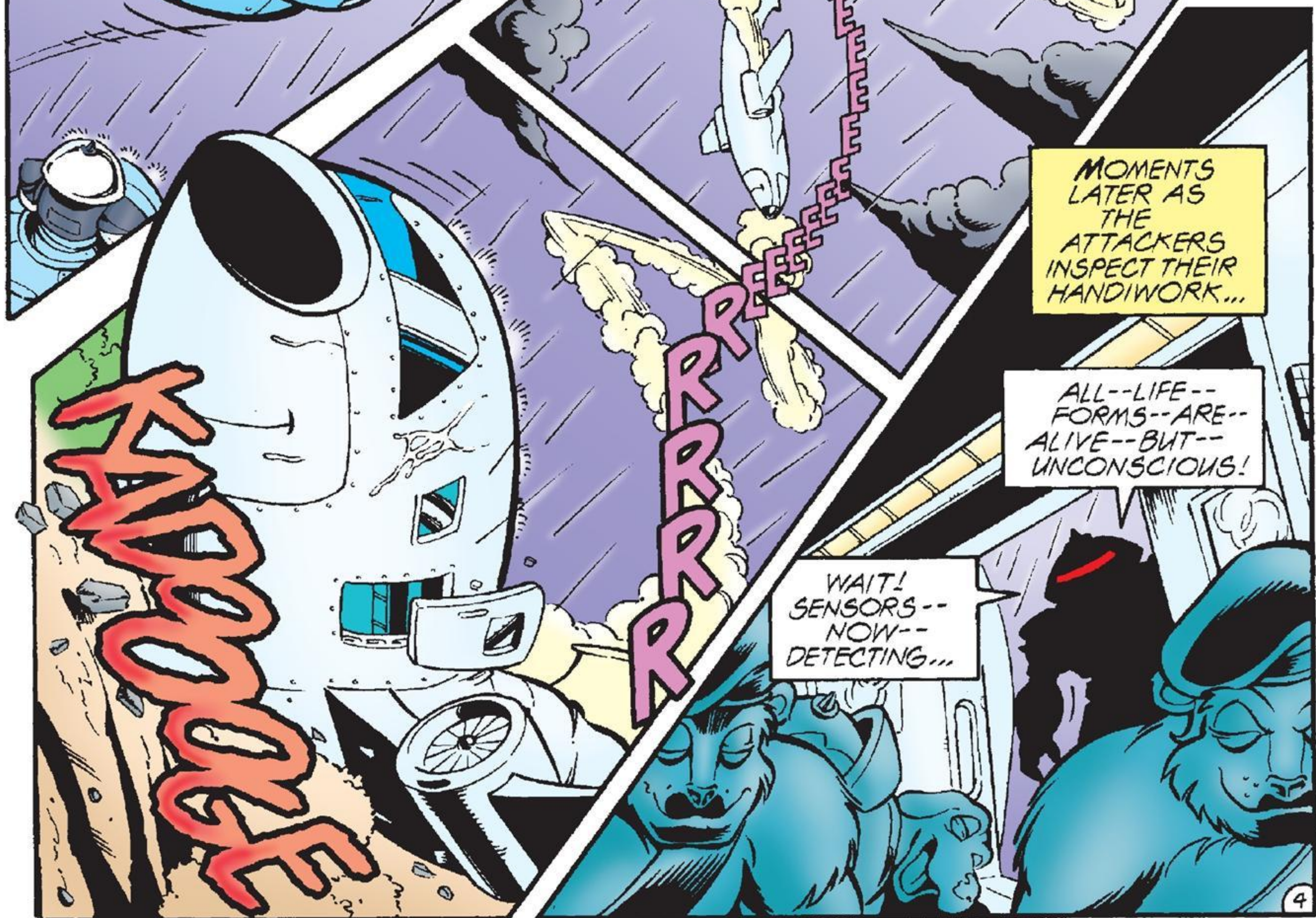
LOOK OUT!



EVASIVE ACTION!

TOO LATE! WE'RE GOING DOWN!

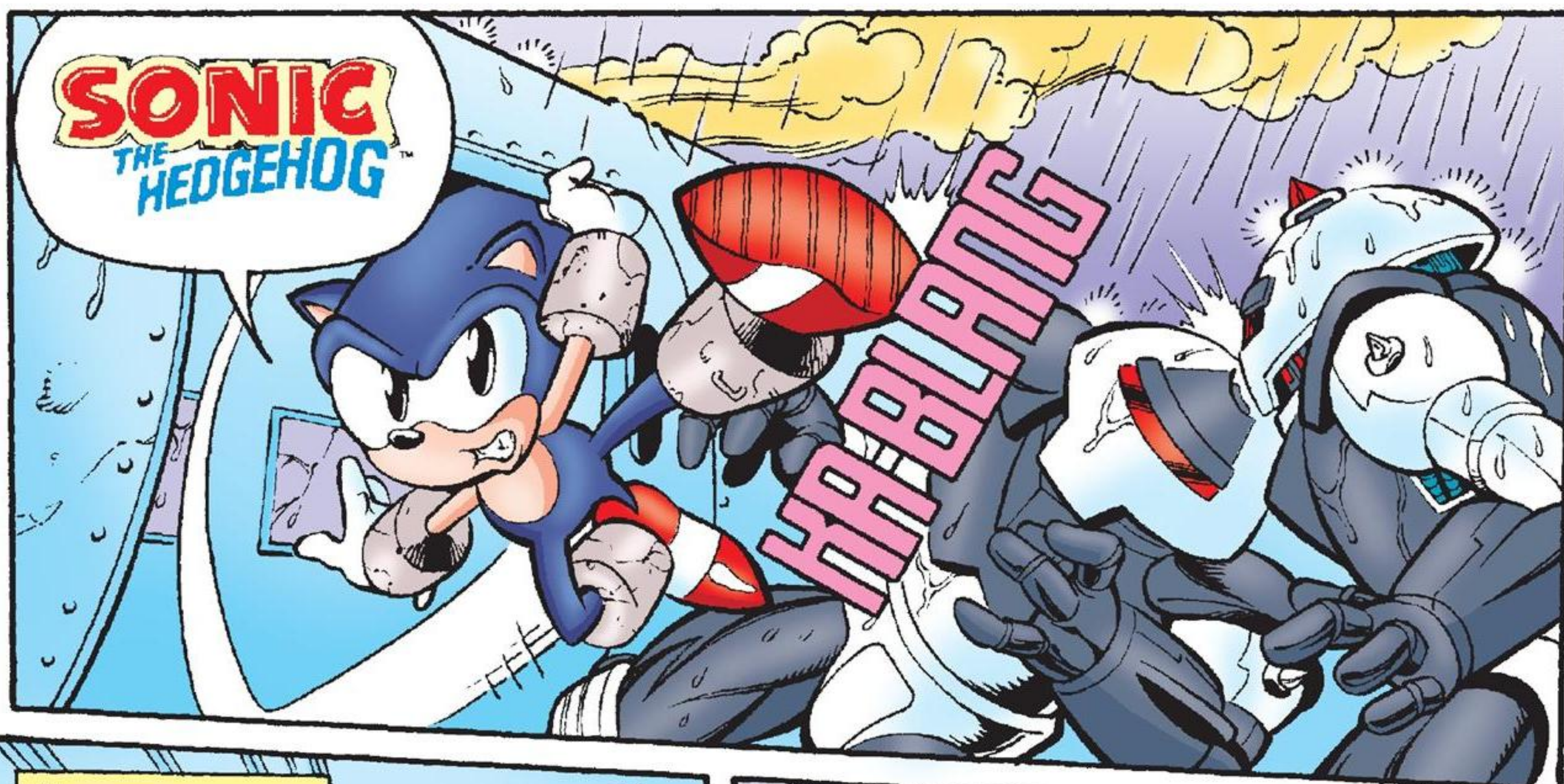
PULL UP! PULL UP!



MOMENTS LATER AS THE ATTACKERS INSPECT THEIR HANDIWORK...

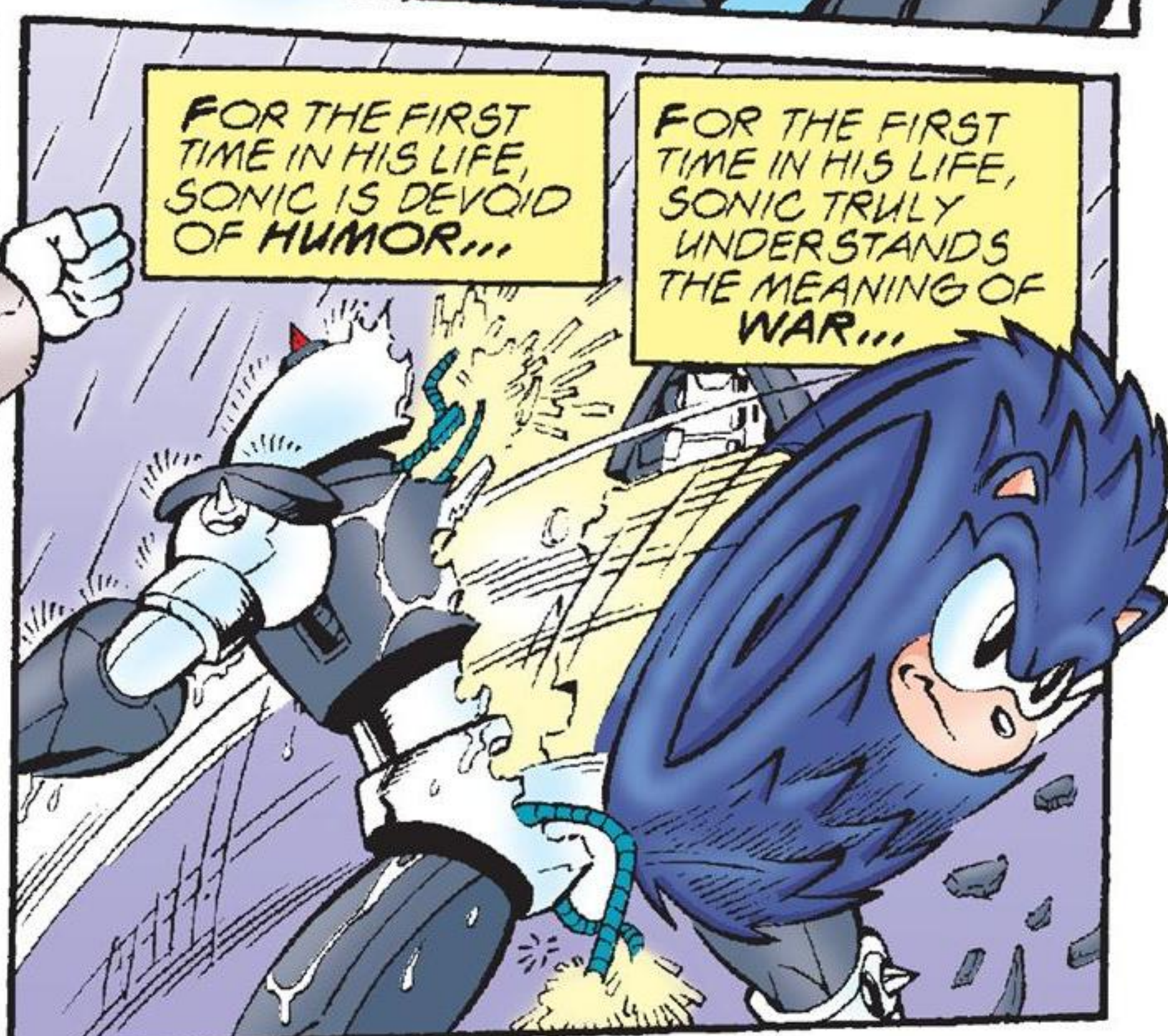
ALL--LIFE--FORMS--ARE--ALIVE--BUT--UNCONSCIOUS!

WAIT! SENSORS--NOW--DETECTING...



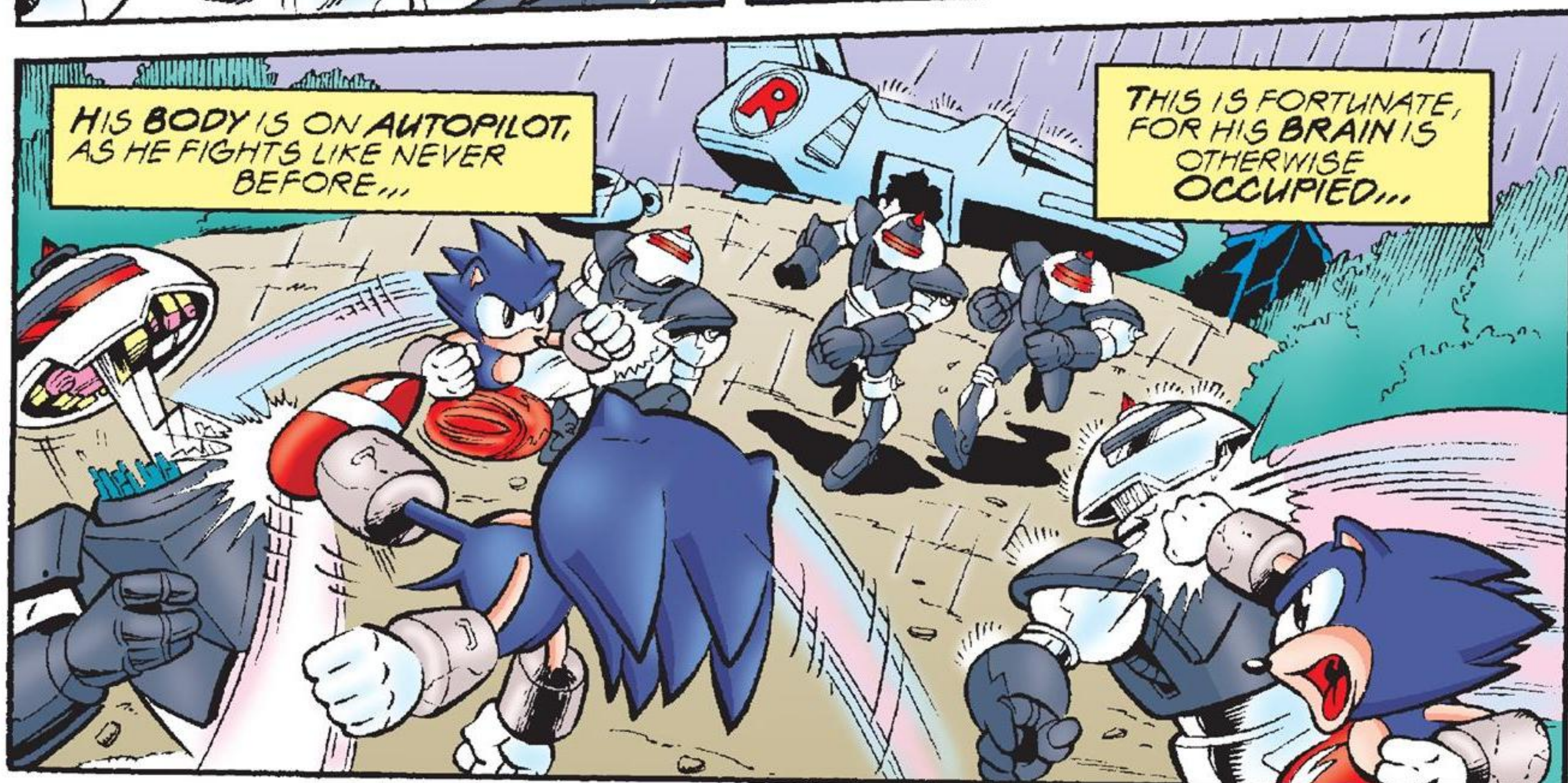
THOSE ARE THE
LAST WORDS
SONIC UTTERS...

NOT ONE SINGLE
JOKE OR WISE-
CRACK ESCAPES
HIS LIPS...



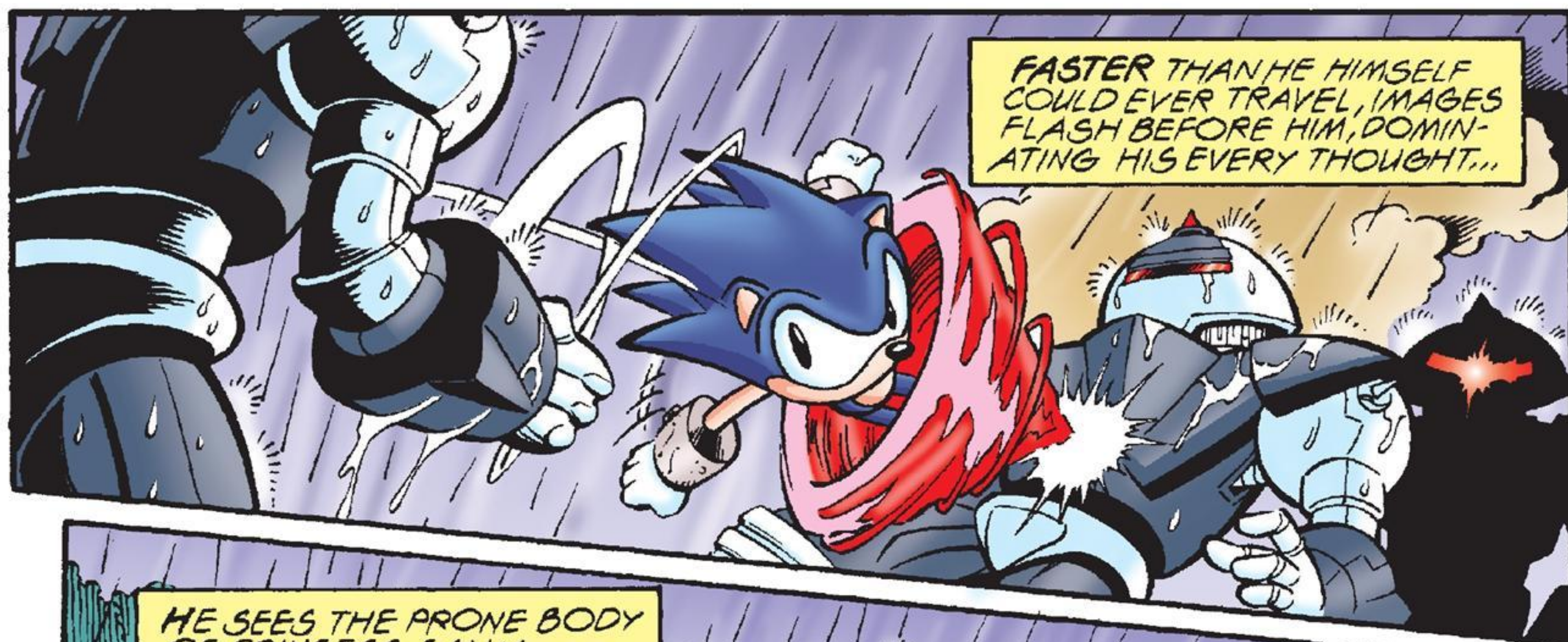
FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN HIS LIFE,
SONIC IS DEVOID
OF HUMOR...

FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN HIS LIFE,
SONIC TRULY
UNDERSTANDS
THE MEANING OF
WAR...

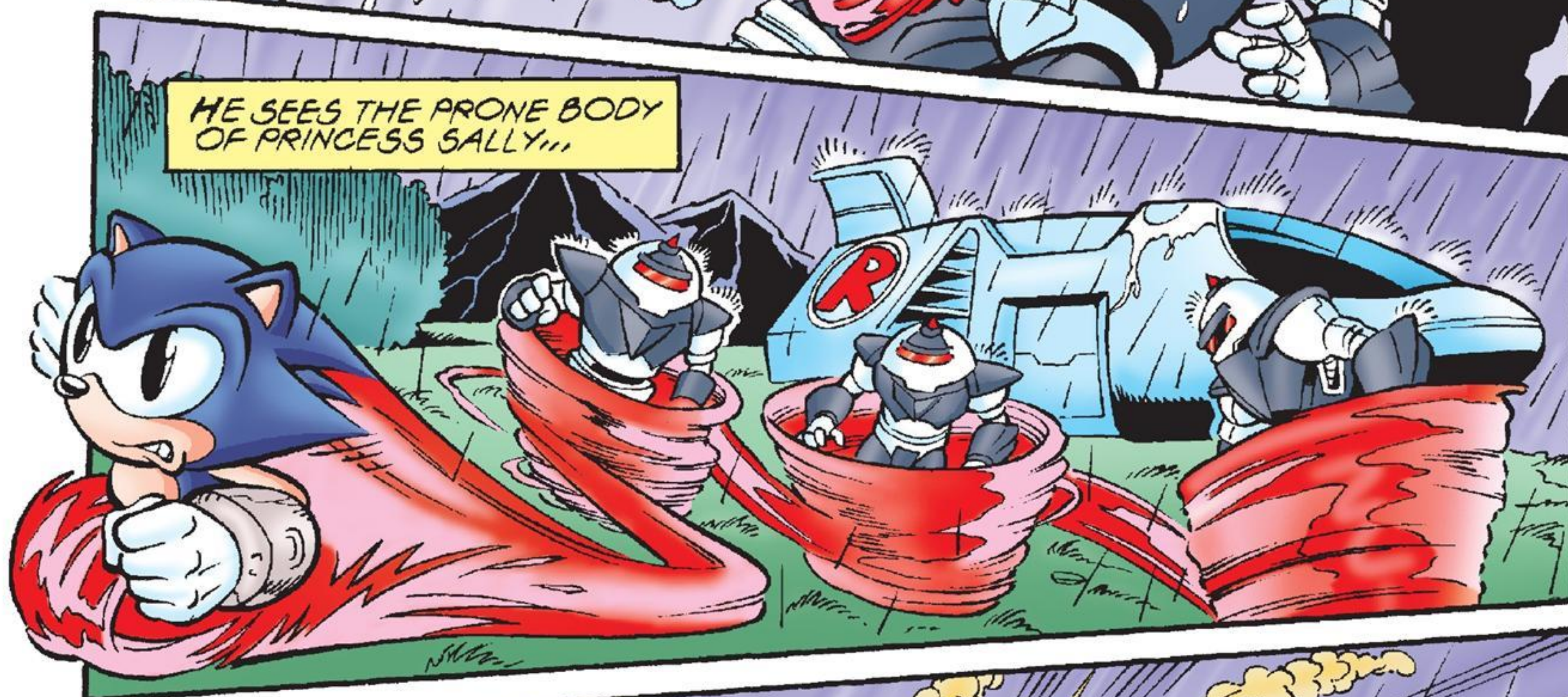


HIS BODY IS ON AUTOPILOT,
AS HE FIGHTS LIKE NEVER
BEFORE...

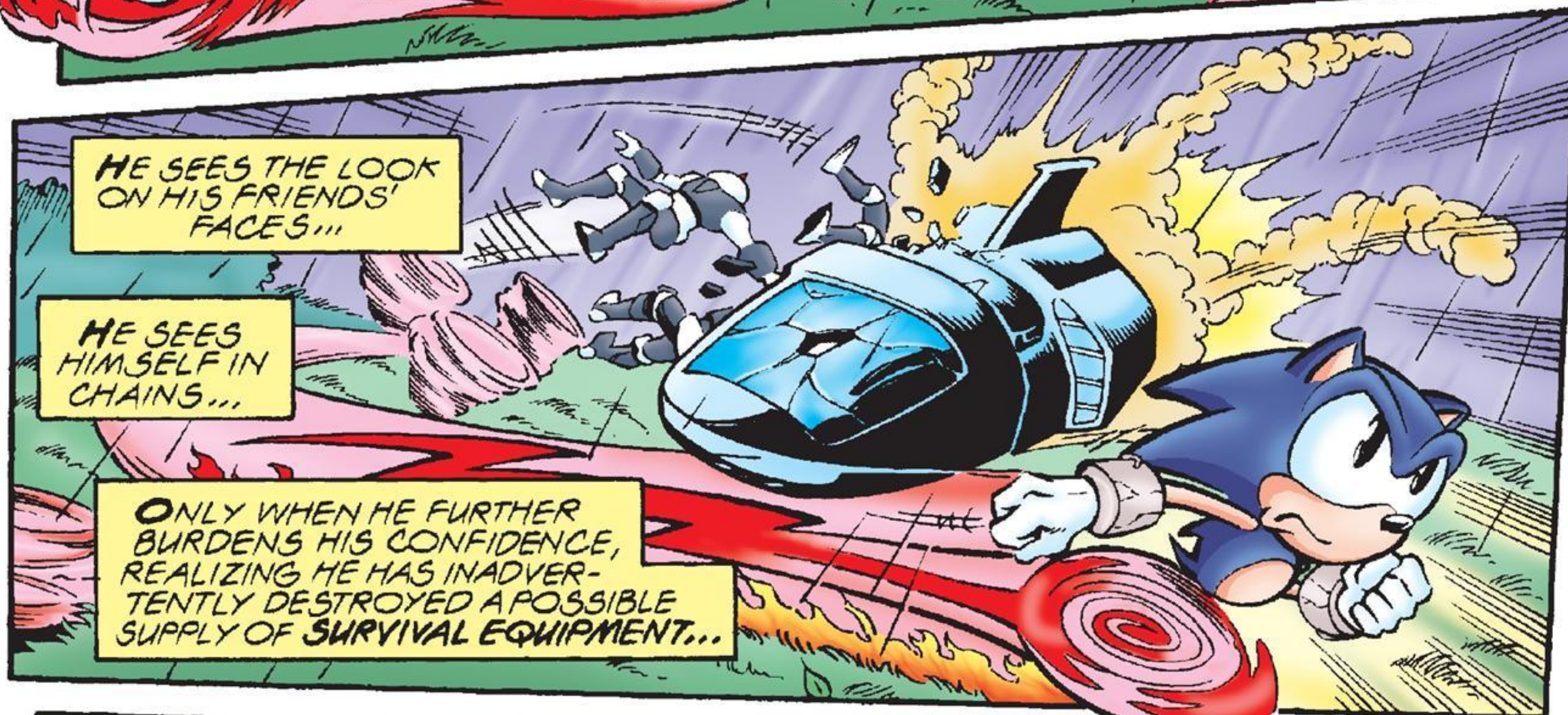
THIS IS FORTUNATE,
FOR HIS BRAIN IS
OTHERWISE
OCCUPIED...



FASTER THAN HE HIMSELF
COULD EVER TRAVEL, IMAGES
FLASH BEFORE HIM, DOMIN-
ATING HIS EVERY THOUGHT...



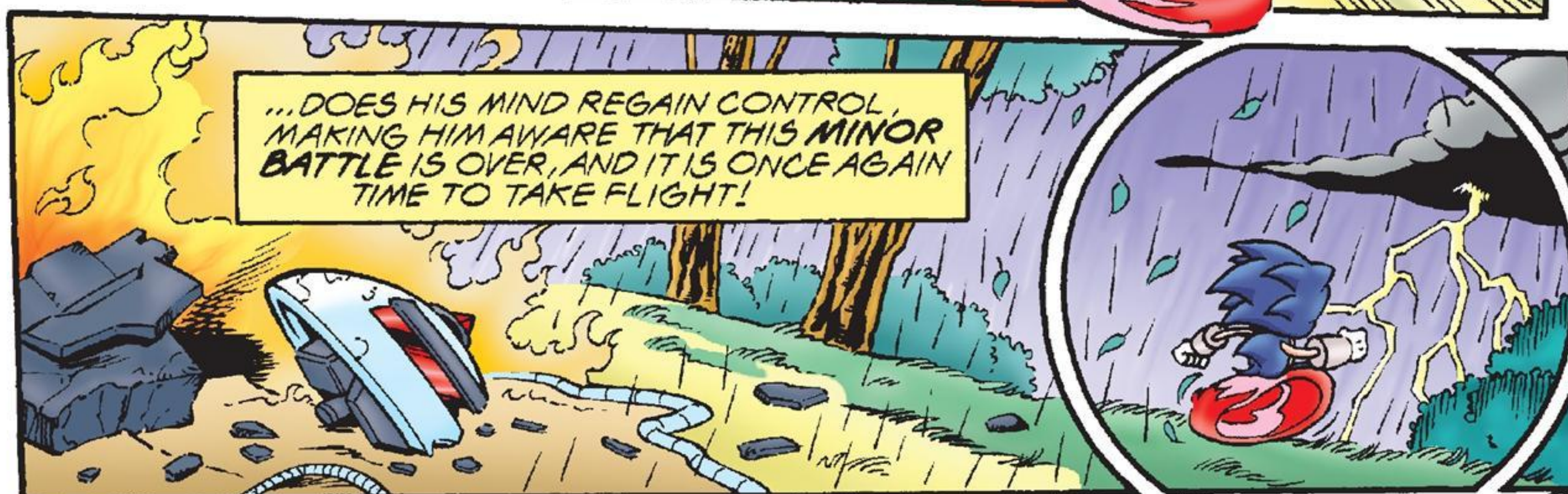
HE SEES THE PRONE BODY
OF PRINCESS SALLY...



HE SEES THE LOOK
ON HIS FRIENDS'
FACES...

HE SEES
HIMSELF IN
CHAINS...

ONLY WHEN HE FURTHER
BURDENS HIS CONFIDENCE,
REALIZING HE HAS INADVER-
TENTLY DESTROYED A POSSIBLE
SUPPLY OF **SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT**...



...DOES HIS MIND REGAIN CONTROL,
MAKING HIM AWARE THAT THIS **MINOR
BATTLE** IS OVER, AND IT IS ONCE AGAIN
TIME TO TAKE FLIGHT!

WHILE THE DEPARTING SONIC PONDERES HIS DESTINY, OTHERS ARE ALREADY PREPARING FOR HIS IMMEDIATE FUTURE...

Ahh, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, FORGIVE MY INTERRUPTION OF YOUR MEDITATIONS, BUT I'M GLAD I'VE CAUGHT YOU ALONE!

YOUR REPORTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, FAITHFUL DRAGO!

I'M SORRY TO REPORT THAT THE PLANE TRANSPORTING SONIC HAS CRASHED MILES AWAY FROM THE PLANNED DESTINATION...! THE MP'S ARE OKAY AND SNOOP IS STILL IN CUSTODY, BUT--

SONIC HAS ESCAPED!

PITY. IT APPEARS HE WILL HAVE TO BE HUNTED DOWN LIKE A DOG... OR BY DOGS!

SEND IN ST. JOHN...

SHORTLY...

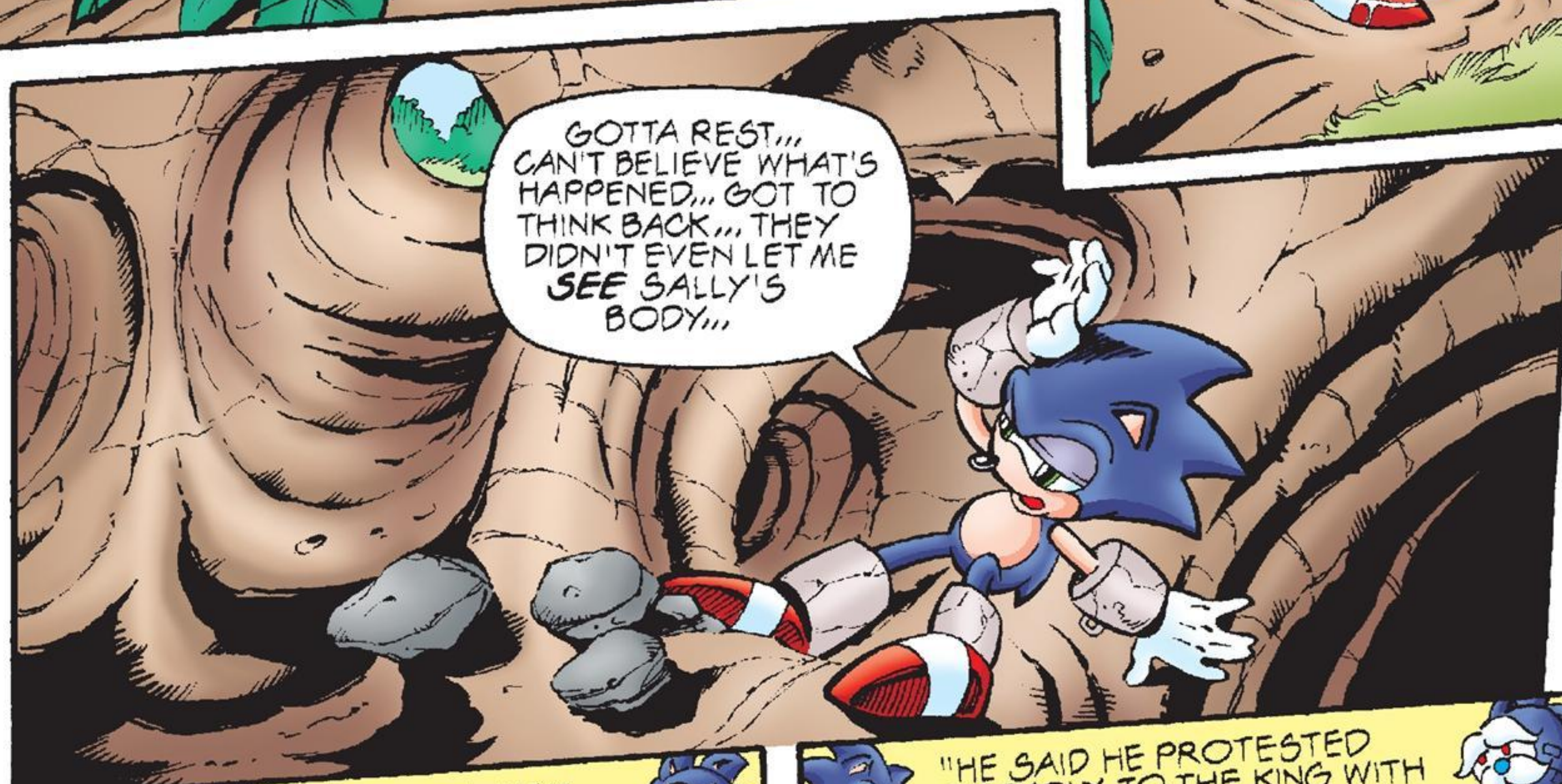
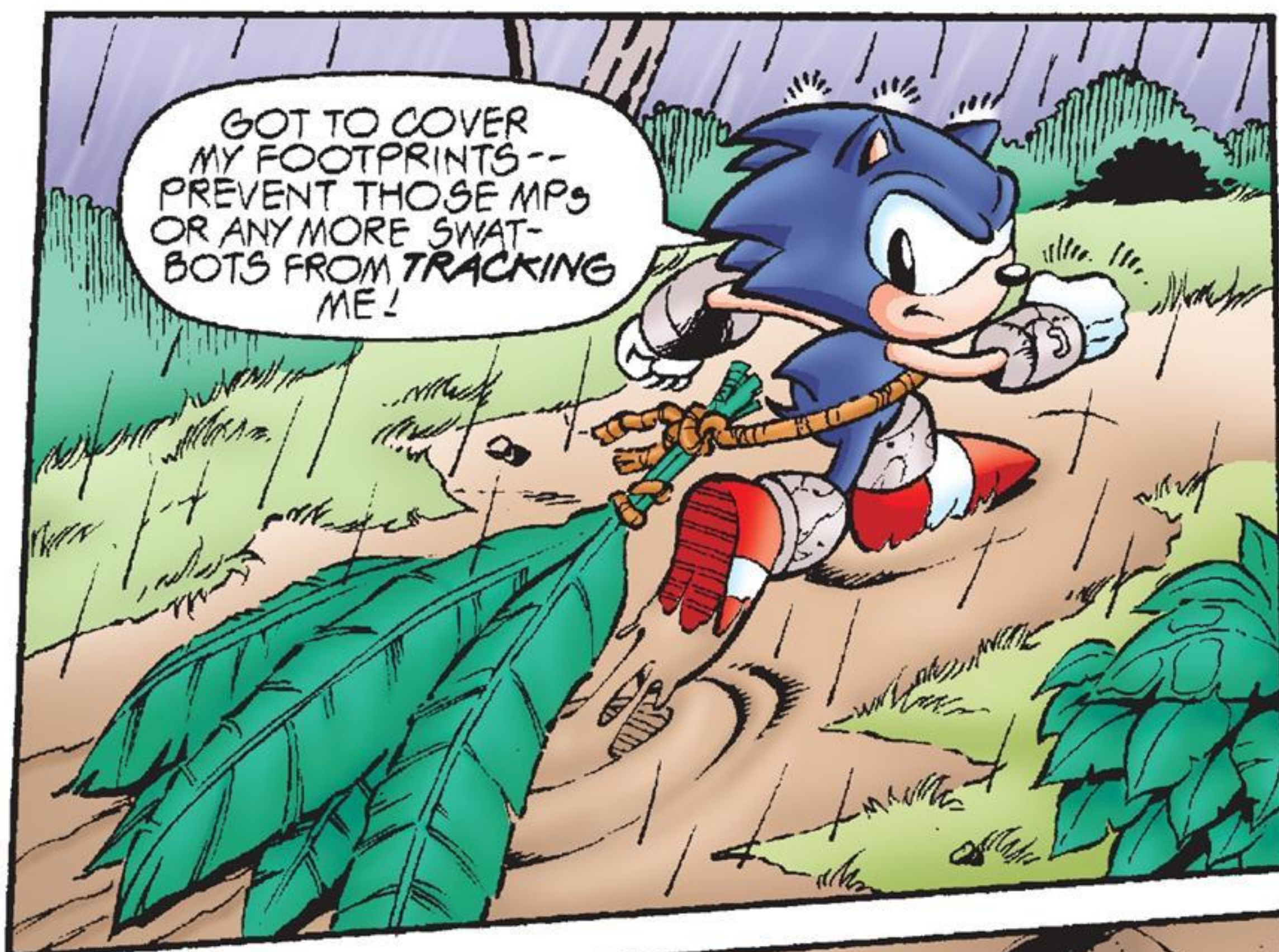
YOUR MEN HAVE FAILED ME, GEOFFREY! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HAS ESCAPED!

...BUT MY MEN ARE THE FINEST-TRAINED SOLDIERS ANYWHERE!

GIVE ME NOT YOUR EXCUSES, MAN! I WON'T HAVE A MURDERER FREE IN MY SOON-TO-BE RESTORED KINGDOM!

FORGIVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY! I'LL ROUST MY MEN IMMEDIATELY! AND I MAKE YOU THIS PLEDGE--

--IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO I WILL RECAPTURE THAT HEDGEHOG!



"AND HE DIDN'T NEED ANY OF HIS ESPIONAGE EXPERIENCE TO REALIZE SOMETHING WAS WAY PAST UNCOOL..."

I THINK OUR "CAMPFIRE POW WOW" REVEALED THE TRUTH --THERE IS A TRAITOR OR TRAITORS IN OUR MIDST... AND I KNOW IT ISN'T YOU!*

*IT HAPPENED IN SONIC #46 EDITOR.

"HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT PAST THE **SHOCK** AND HAD HIS STUFF TOGETHER!"

DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, SONIC! I KNOW I WON'T UNTIL **JUSTICE IS SERVED!**

SONIC'S MIND REELS IN TURMOIL...

AND WHEN HIS CAPACITY TO PONDER CURRENTLY UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS COMES TO AN END...

...ONLY THEN DOES HE FEEL THE TRUE IMPACT OF SALLY'S PASSING...

...ONLY THEN DOES THE STRESS AND GRIEF FORCE HIS BODY TO SUCCUMB TO SLEEP.

BACK AT KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...

WHAT'S UP, ANTOINE?

SSHH! VERY BE-ZARRE! MOMENTS AGO, DRAGO, AND THEN "LE PEW" GOT ZEE PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH ZEE KING!



THESE ARE TERRIBLE TIMES, SUGAH!

REALLY?! THEN WHY HAVE WE NOT BEEN GRANTED ZEE SAME PRIVILEGE?

AH DON'T KNOW! BUT AT LEAST IT CONFIRMS THAT GEOFFREY IS GENUINE!*

PERHAPS, BUT DRAGO? HE NEVER CLAIMED TO BE IN ZEE KING'S CONFIDENCE!

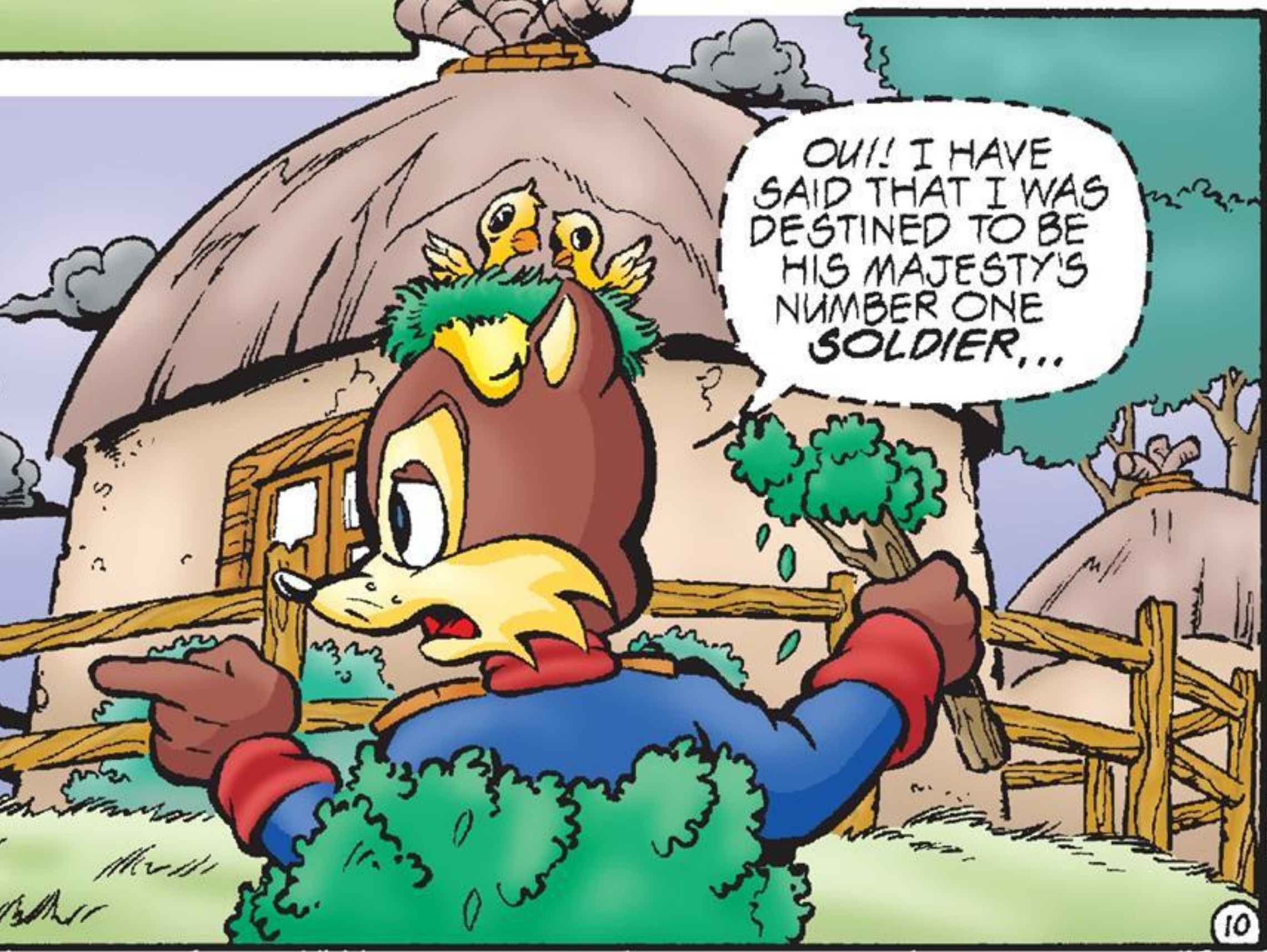
AND DURING SONIC'S JUDGEMENT, WHY DID HE KEEP ZEE DISTANCE FROM ZEE WOLFPACK?!



*'TWAN BELIEVES GEOFFREY TO BE A SPY. SEE SONIC#46--EDITOR.P.I.

AH DON'T KNOW! BUT Y'ALL REALIZE THAT WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING DRAGO, DON'T YA?

OUI! I HAVE SAID THAT I WAS DESTINED TO BE HIS MAJESTY'S NUMBER ONE SOLDIER...



"AND IF ZEE KING CANNOT SEE THE GREAT FOREST FOR ZEE TREES, THEN I WILL DO MY DUTY AS ZEE **RAIDER** OF ZEE **TRAITORS**!"

HELLO, DEAR! THE FUTURE "**DUKE**" OF ROBOTROPOLIS IS HOME!

LEAVE ME OUT OF YOUR **FUTURE**! I'VE DONE MY **PART**--AND THAT'S ENOUGH!

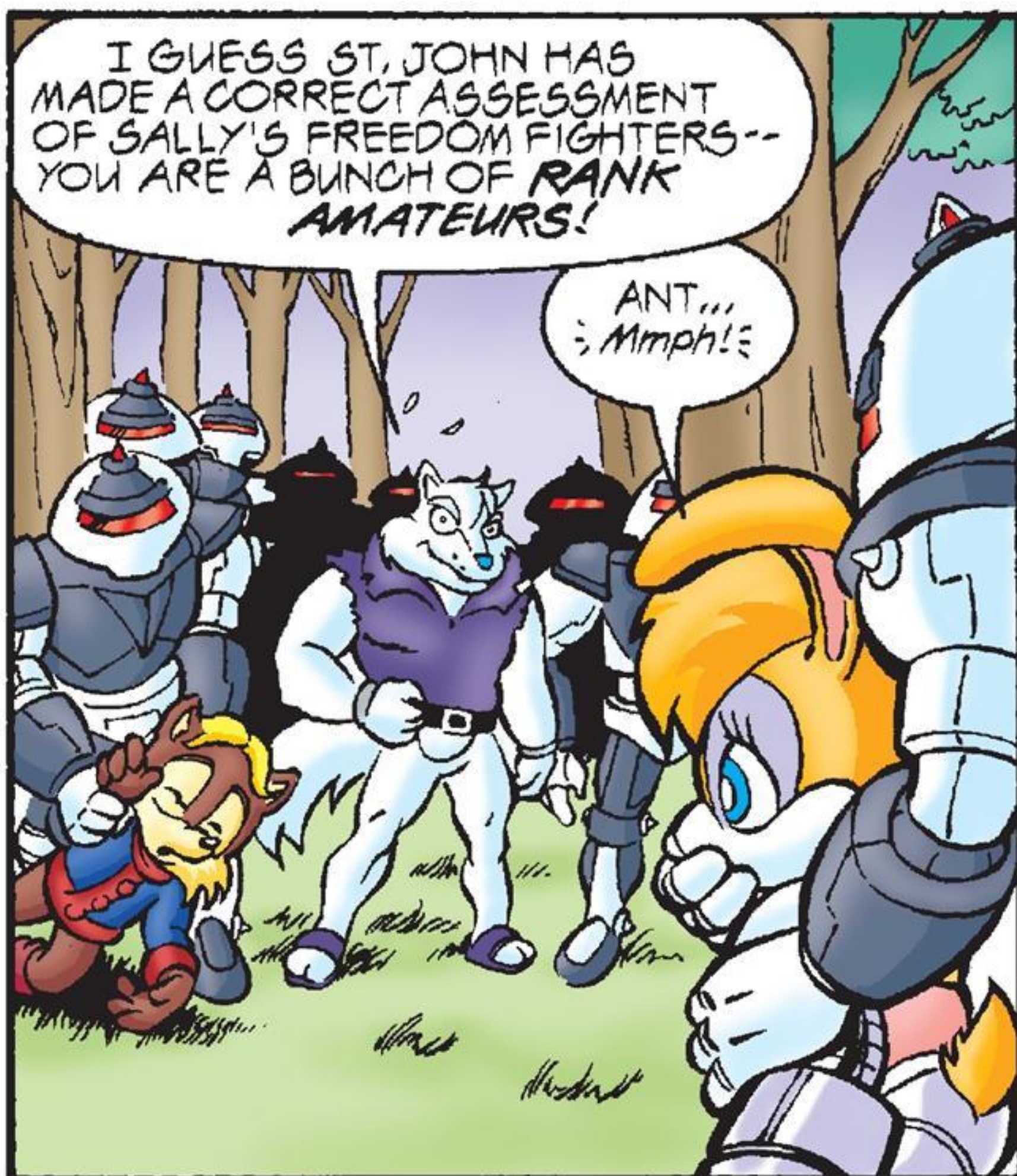
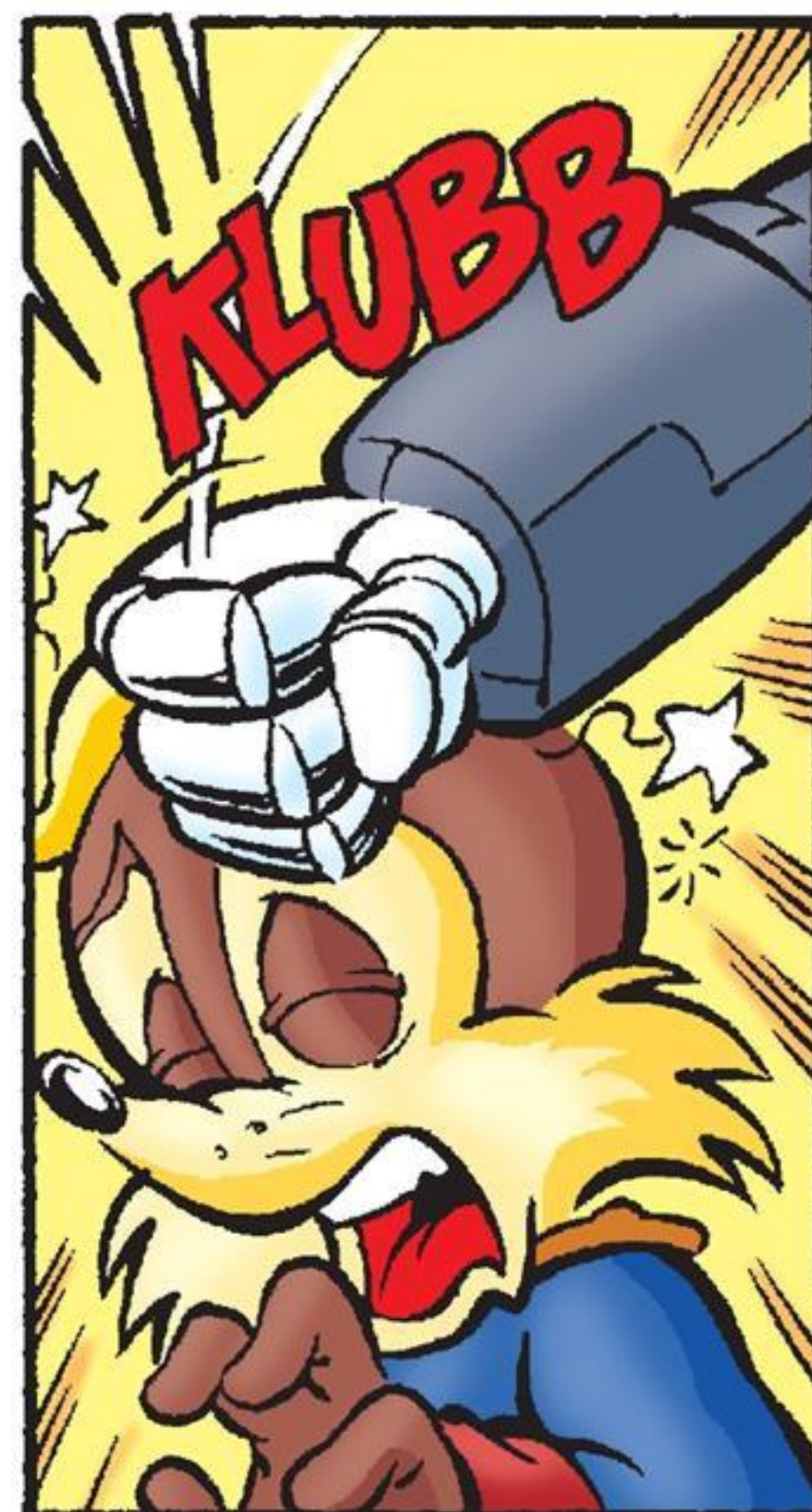
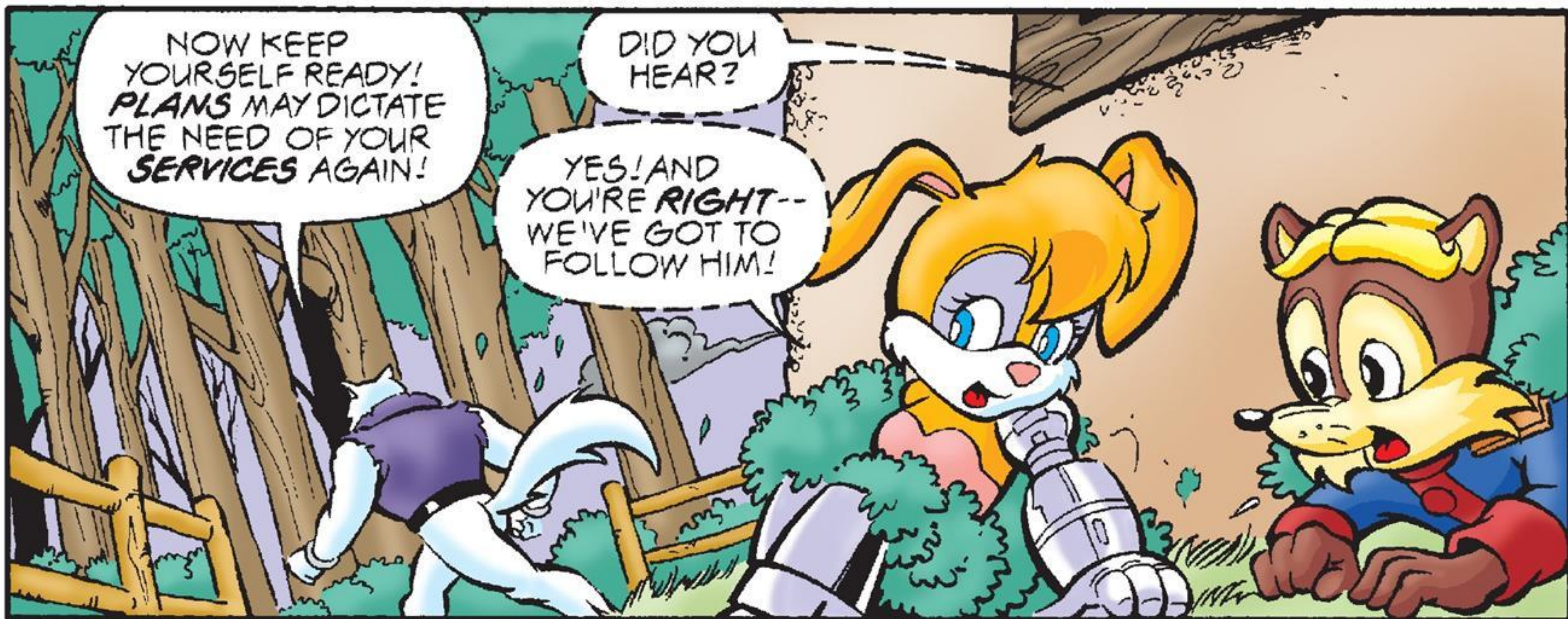
AND IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR **HELP**, MAYBE I'LL MAKE YOU MY FUTURE "**DUCHESS**"!

DON'T TAKE THAT TONE WITH ME! YOU'RE **INTO THIS** UP TO YOUR PRETTY NECK!

YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM!

THEN YOU LISTEN HERE! SONIC HAS **ESCAPED** GEOFFREY'S MEN! BUT ST. JOHN **HIMSELF** HAS BEEN ORDERED TO HUNT HIM DOWN!

I'M **SURE** HE'LL FIND HIM, AND WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL **ELIMINATE** EACH OTHER!



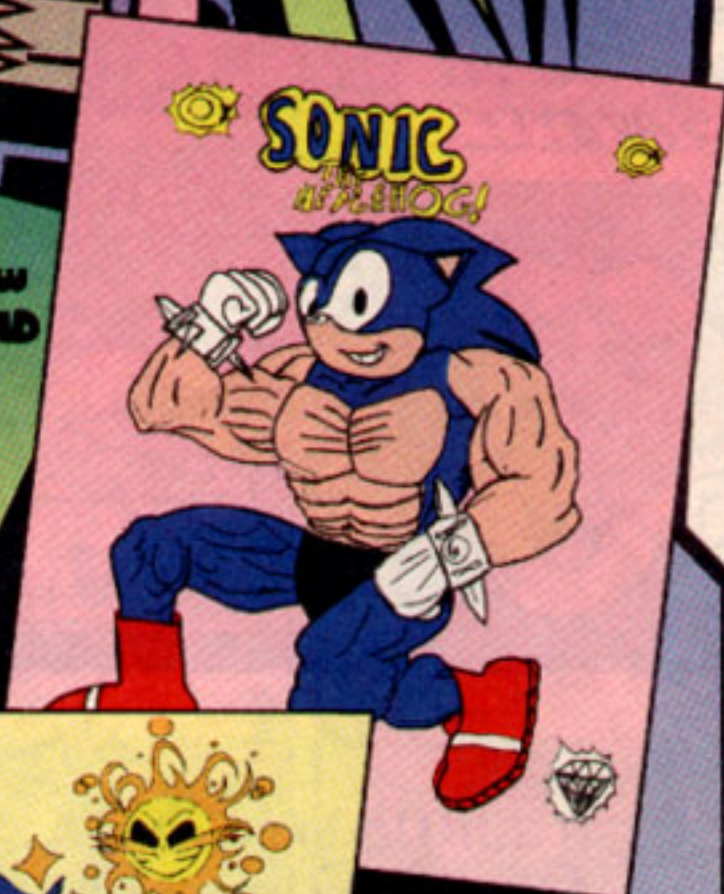
FAN ART

SONIC

Tamara Lucas
Apple Valley, CA



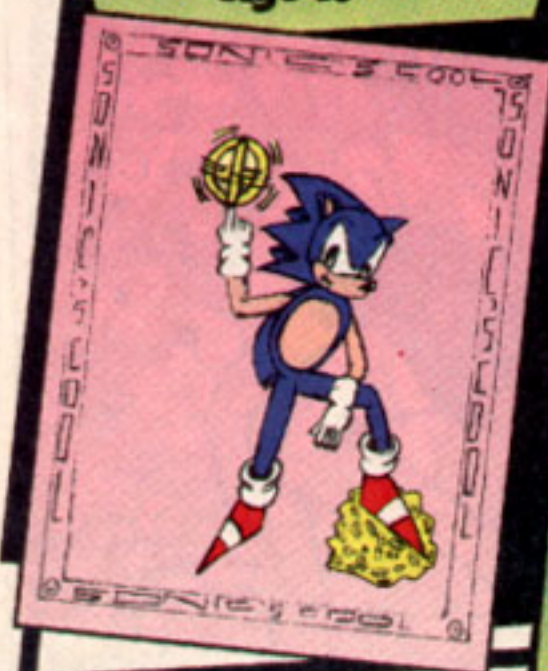
Brian Morrow
Balto, MD
Age 10



Jonathan Perez
Ozone Park, NY
Age 10



Brandon Gould
Easton, MD
Age 15



Darby Jaussen
Terrace, WA

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THE "FIND YOUR NAME IN PRINT PAGE"

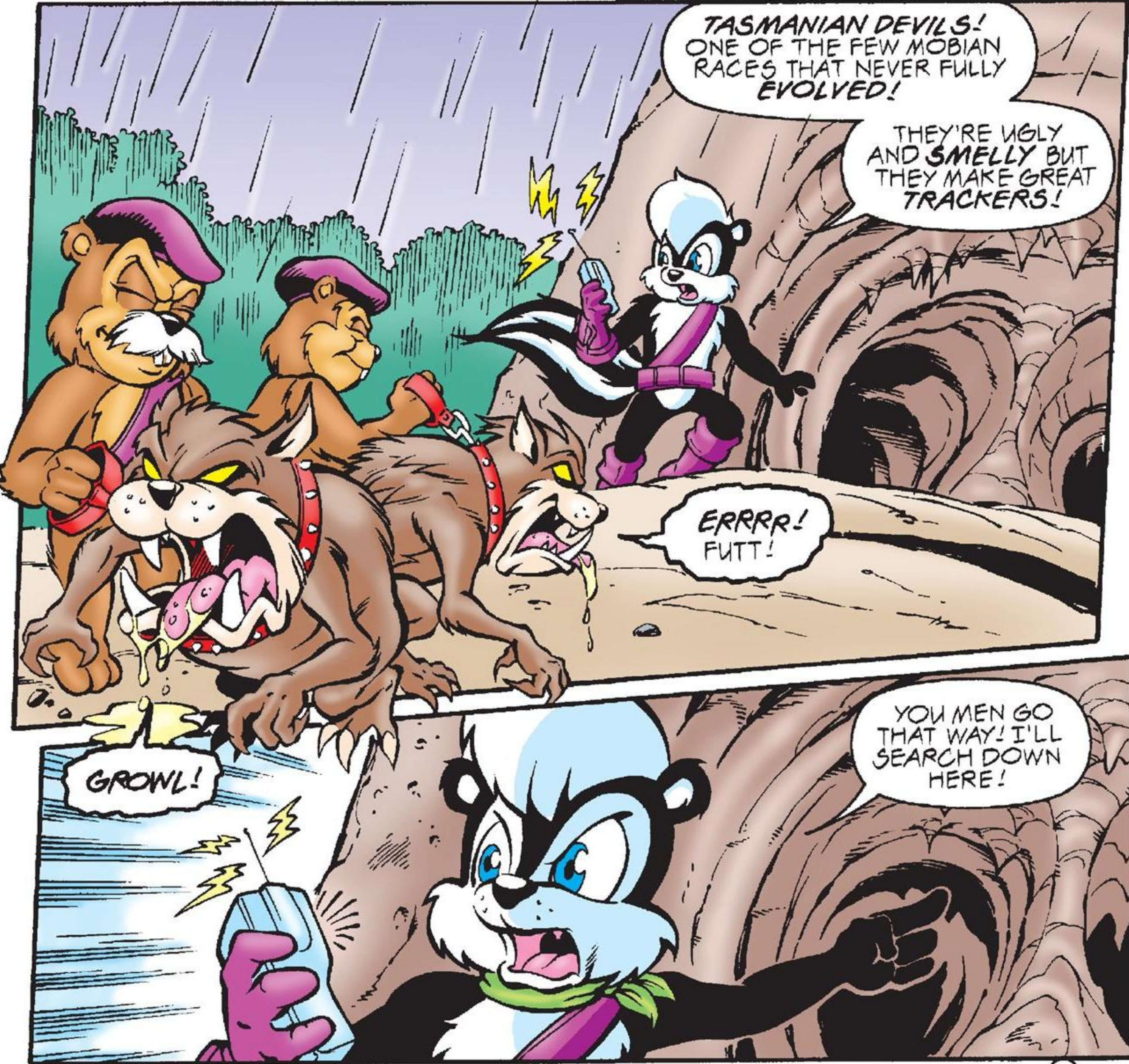
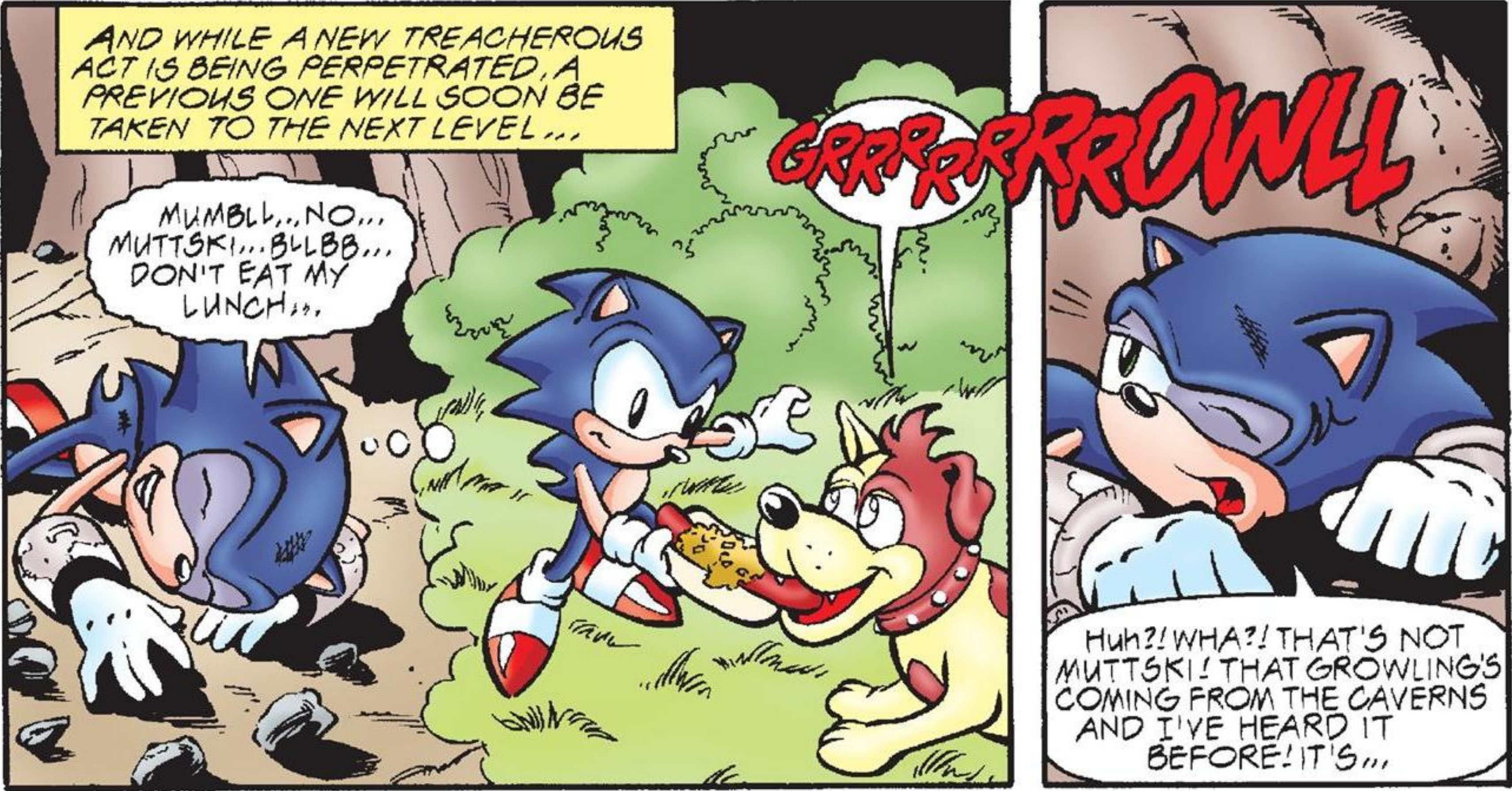
**THANKS
GUYS AND
GALS! KEEP
WRITING IN!**

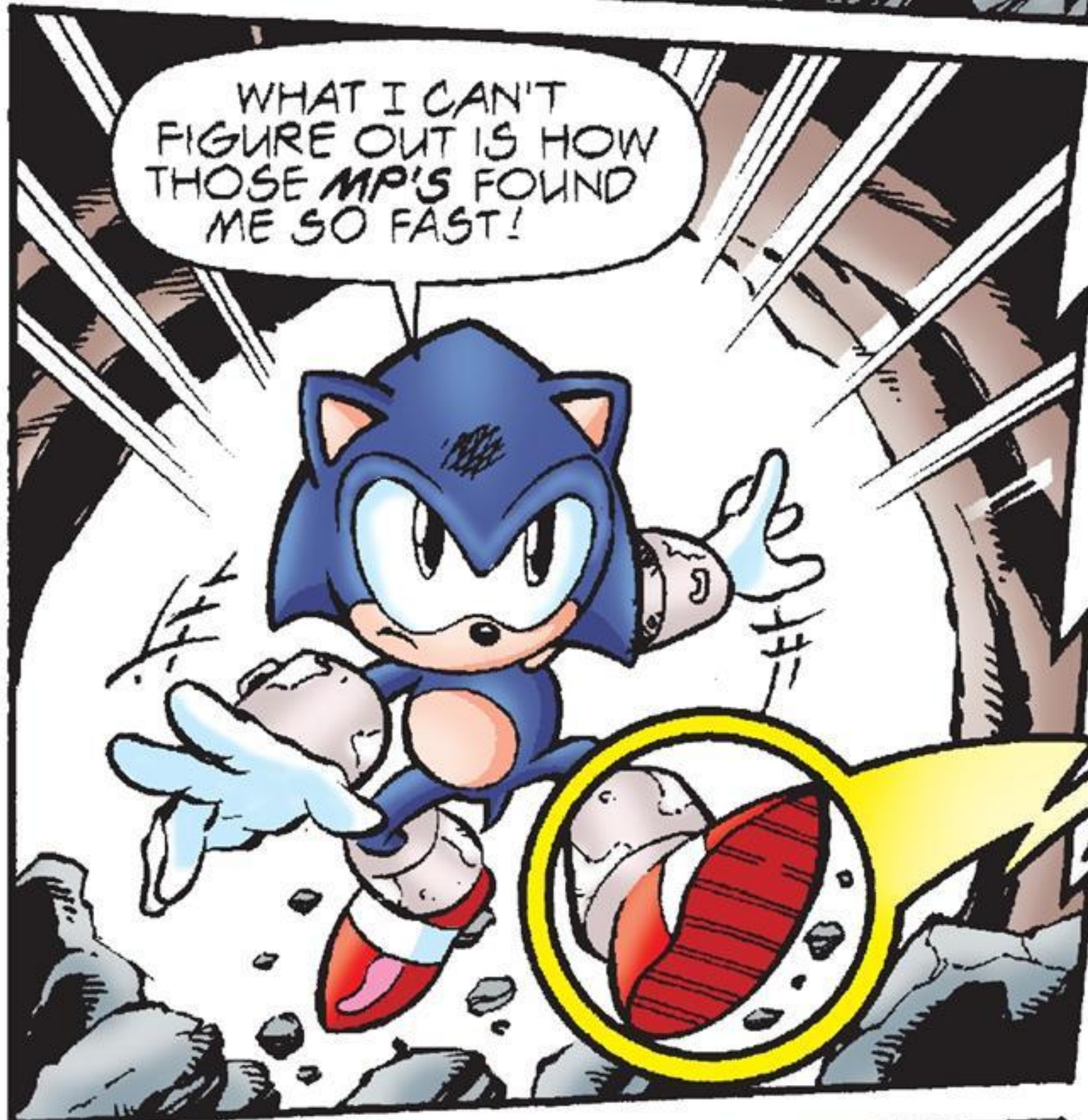
**THANKS
TO
LETTER-
WRITERS
AND
ARTISTS:**

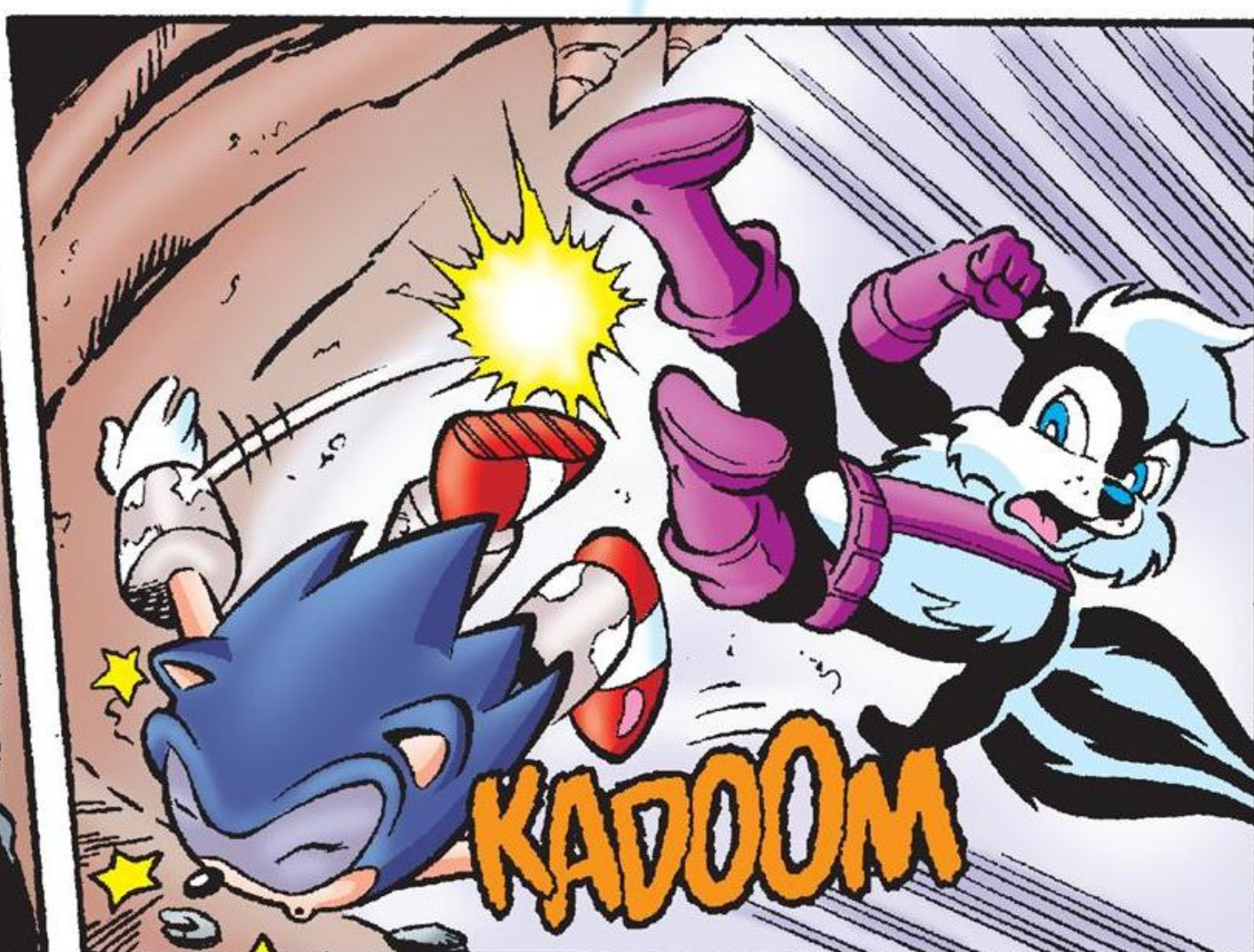
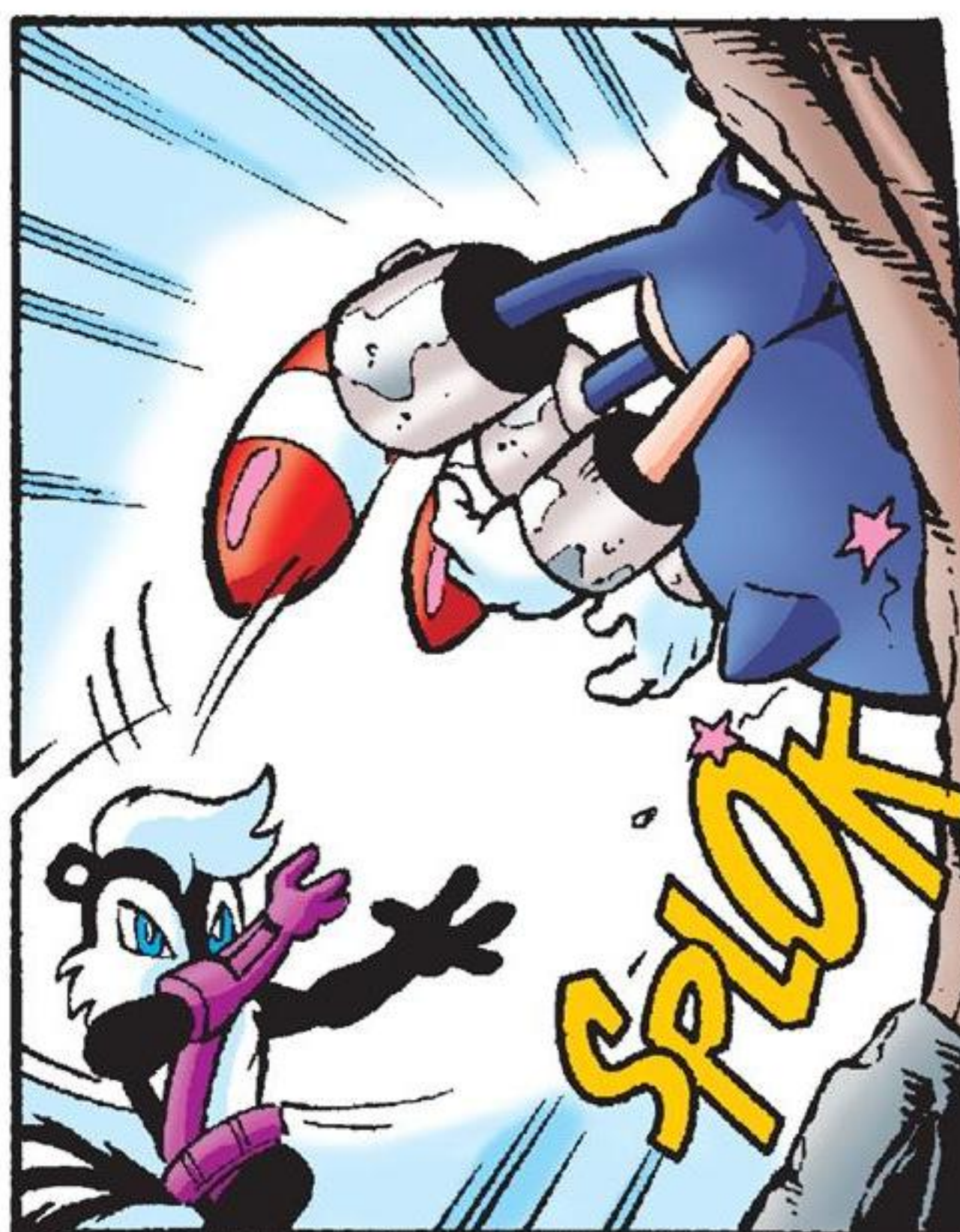
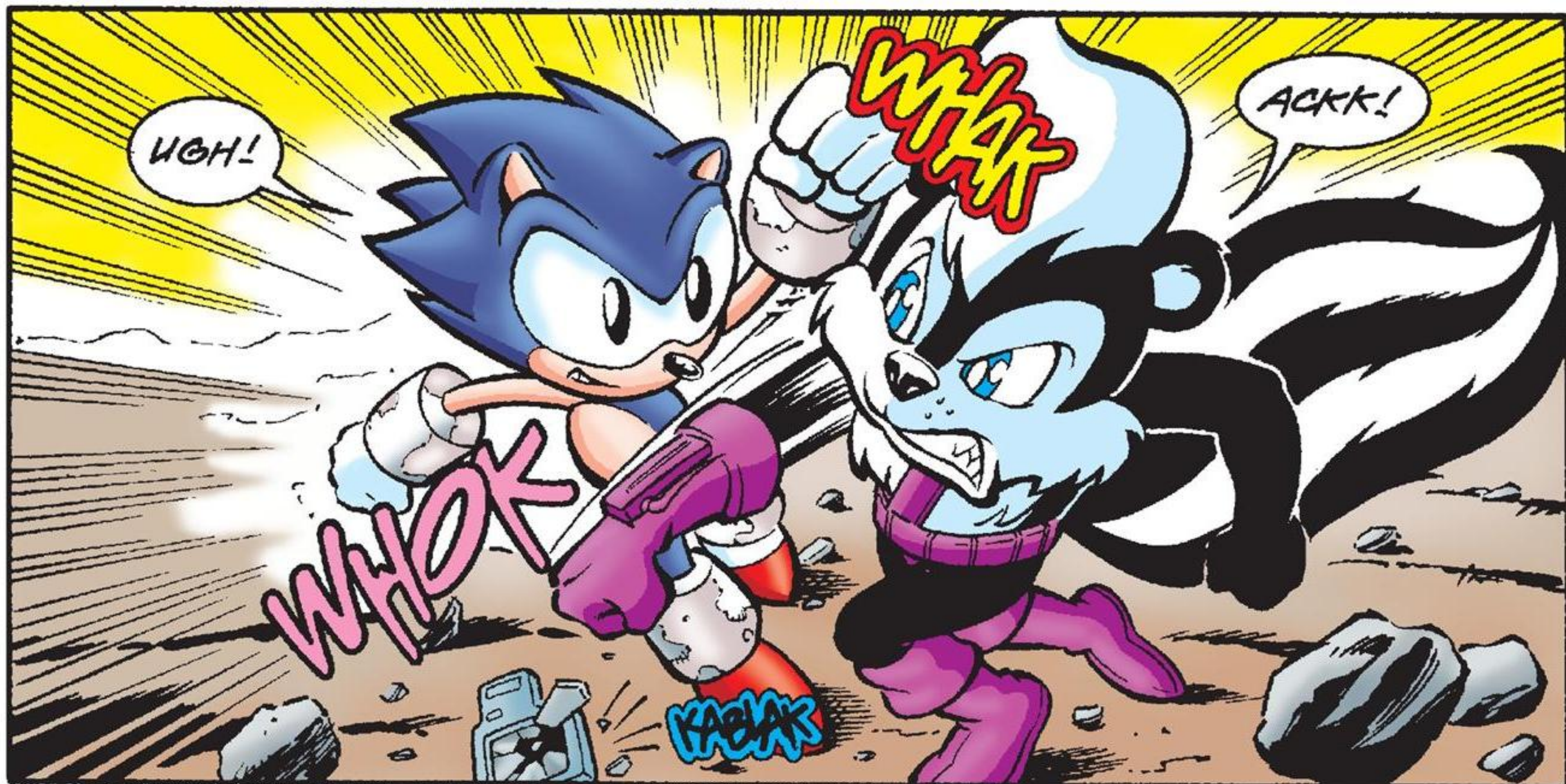
Joston Roses, Cameron Corwin, Anton & Anya De Leon, Andrew & Alexandra Suarez, Brittany & Bridget Reyes with Charlene & Nicole Reyes, Jennifer Miller, Jordan Francid, Randy Miller (Age 15), Chris Myers, Chris Grant, Jared

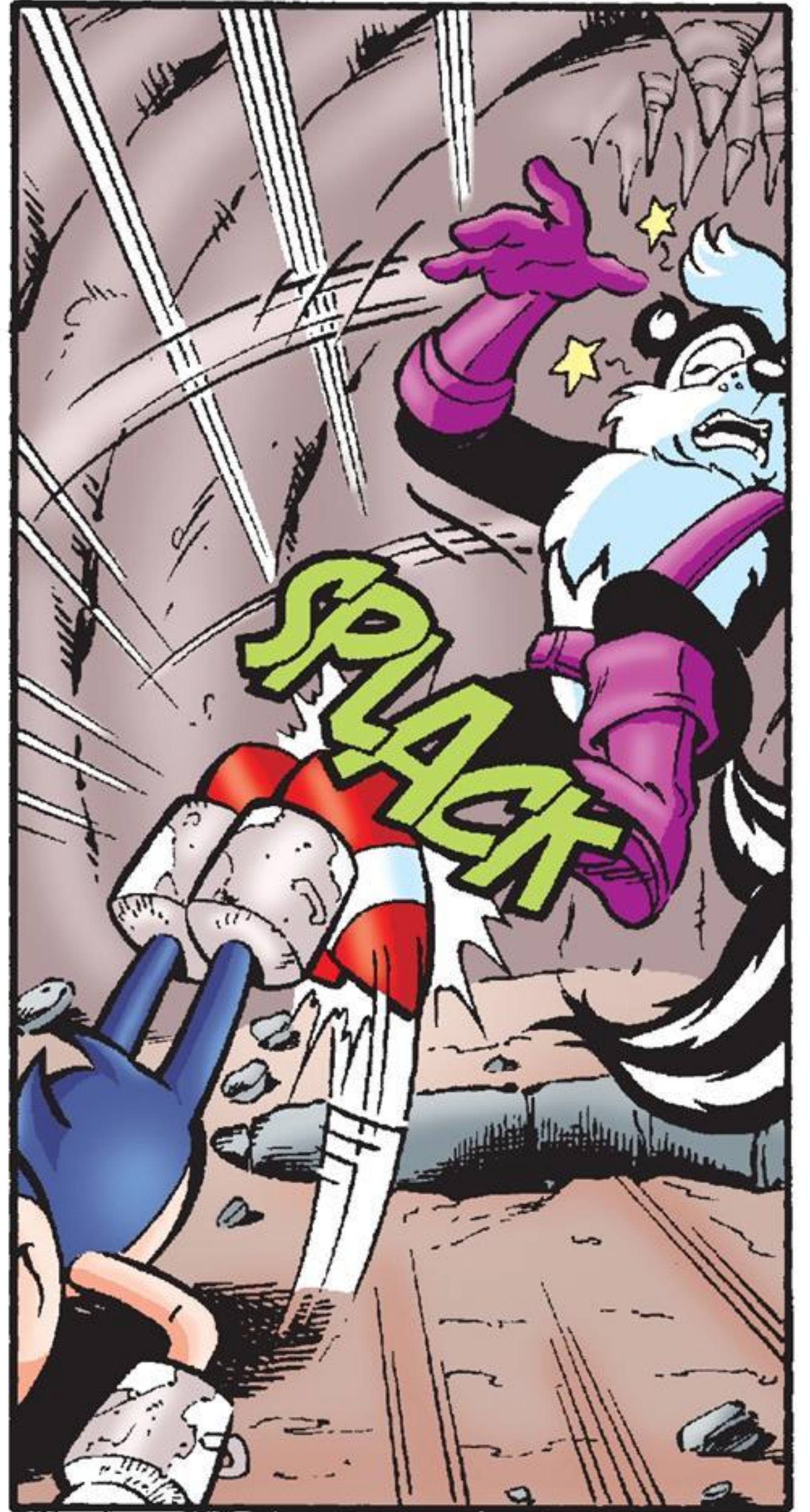
Valanzola, Miss Hannh Childs, Nick Hess (Age 5), Jordan Madere, Brian Kotinek, Jill Kulonowski (Age 11), John Sengul, Justin Yonkie (Age 11), Misty Burnett, Brandi Epps, Nate Arnettm, Melissa Martinez, Shawn B. Sheyka (Age 12), Richard Day, Luke Prince (Age 8), Travis Newton & Nick Bailey, April Ragan, Caleb Knox (Age 11), Pat Lyke, Mike Nielsen, Jeffrey McMurrin, Sean Barker, Angela Donato, Greg McHuffie, Tony Callahan, Sam Loughman, Andy Omelczuk, William Cheng, Spencer Henry, Danny Maglish, Alex Davis, Vincent Fermo, Joseph Arcos (x7), no name from Del Norte Dental, Keith Faulkner, Katie Tylicki (Age 5), Jareth "JJ" Jajowka, Ronald Martin, Daniel Feather, Angela Claire "Annie C." Proto, Darren West, Nicholas Johns, Robert Walk, Sarah Waldian, Robby Shartrand, Mike Plunamer, Kenny Kozlowski, Sander Ericksen Rue, Jennifer Innaggi, Ricardo Varella, Justin Marsh, Danny Zemanek, Josh Burson, Jonathan Wood (Age 6), Paul "Parrot" Jackmauh, Rebecca Soller, David Pridemore, Thermar Greene Winston-Salem (Age 8), Tamara Luthy (Age 10), Daniel Dixon, Justina Watus, Ian Simpson, Christopher Zuniga, Sean Johnson, Kendall Brunson (Age 5), William Tucker, Jake "Sonic" Polverini, Steven Medbury (Age 7), Craig Martin, Eric Meining, Chris Leslie (Age 11), Zachary Constantine, Ashley Byrd, Will Strait, Brad Hilts, Mary Ann Rosales, Laura LaRose, Luke Brown, Bobby Strees, John Christopher, Kelly Rose, Tristan Ross, Mari Cruz Covarrubias, Brian delos Reyes, Jacob Day, Kevin Vanderburg, Josh Davis, Caren Cogdell, Dondi Belhece, Cortlin Patrick, Noah Gmeiweser, Melaine Saunders, David Hurley, Barbra Purdy, Scott Swank, Marc Marcelo, Alex Johnson, Jayme Hagen, Tim Salmon, Thomas Spain, Joe Tonello, Stephen Bovino, Bruce Humsberry, Brendon Hewson, Lee Bicker, Josh Suarez, Nathan Hovilla, Jerney Gonzalez, Brandon Suarez, Jeff Cornell, Aundra Phillips, Sean George, Greg Huragave, Colleen Cham, Alex Latanision, Richard Jasim, Philip Burkart, Gary Smith, Nick Kirstein, William Escobar, Derek Pettitt, Brendon Long, Randall Herrera, Benjamin Roberdu, Emily Arnold, Stephen Caruso, Palmer Danner, Kato Hivley, Brendon Edwards, Erin Pehlivan, Scott Seyfarth, Eric Sefarth, Beth Stepenaski, Chris Carter, Denis McCary, Josh Sanders, Stuart Congdon, Jesse Tindall, Robert Woodside, Blake Thorton, Tony Britten, Tommy Bolik, T.J. Kim, Danielle Brock, Danielle Brockman, Jarett Dottin, Michael Epton, J.J. Scott, Daniel McKie, Guy Pratt, Jessica Kuzemtu, Sushumna Malhoe, Mike Saylon, Joe Soosiah, Kari Hagen, Christopher Peckham, Matthew Burgess, Elodie Westover, Arthur Balland, Jesse Bernard, Trevor Elvey, Jenny Gulab, Joseph Rad, Jason Furgerson, Rebeca Richbury, Mandy Richbury, Catherine Stevens, Frank Pistelli, Tony Williamson, Sandy Lamison, Store Isabell, Steve Asbell, Rex Hughes, Comodore Campbell, Jesse Shear, Tori Batalo, Jacob Lahr, Justin Kelly, Josh Epp, David Marr, Joshua Taylor, Elizabeth Spears, Dustin freeman, Kurtis Codgill, Jessica

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AS WE PONDER THE FATE OF OUR COMBATANTS, WE TAKE A POSSIBLE LAST LOOK INSIDE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...

SINCE IT HAS BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST DID SO, AND IN LIEU OF ALL THE RECENT EVENTS, I THOUGHT IT HIGH TIME I HELD COURT!

FIRST, LET ME SAY, THAT DESPITE THE UNFORTUNATE FATES OF MY DAUGHTER AND SONIC, I AM QUITE PLEASED WITH THE HEROISM YOU, MY LOYAL SUBJECTS, HAVE DEMONSTRATED DURING MY EXILE!



HOWEVER, YOUR EFFORTS HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN FUTILE!

THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FIGHTING AND TOO LITTLE PROGRESS -- WHICH I ATTRIBUTE TO YOUR GENERAL LACK OF ABILITY.

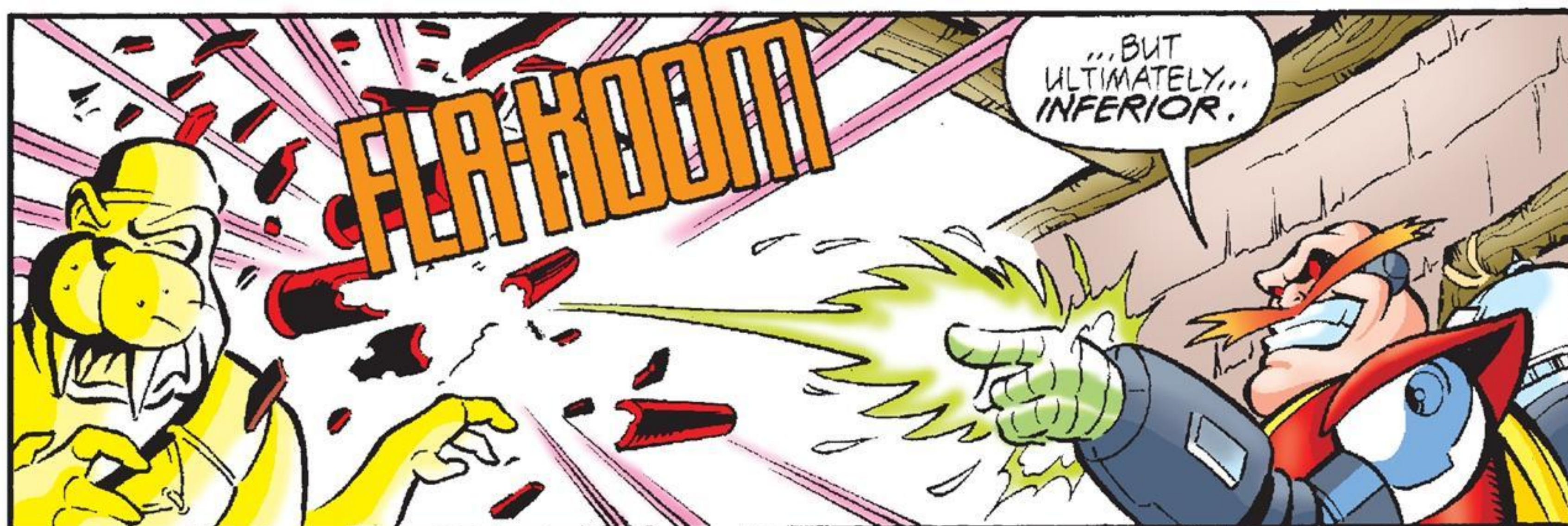


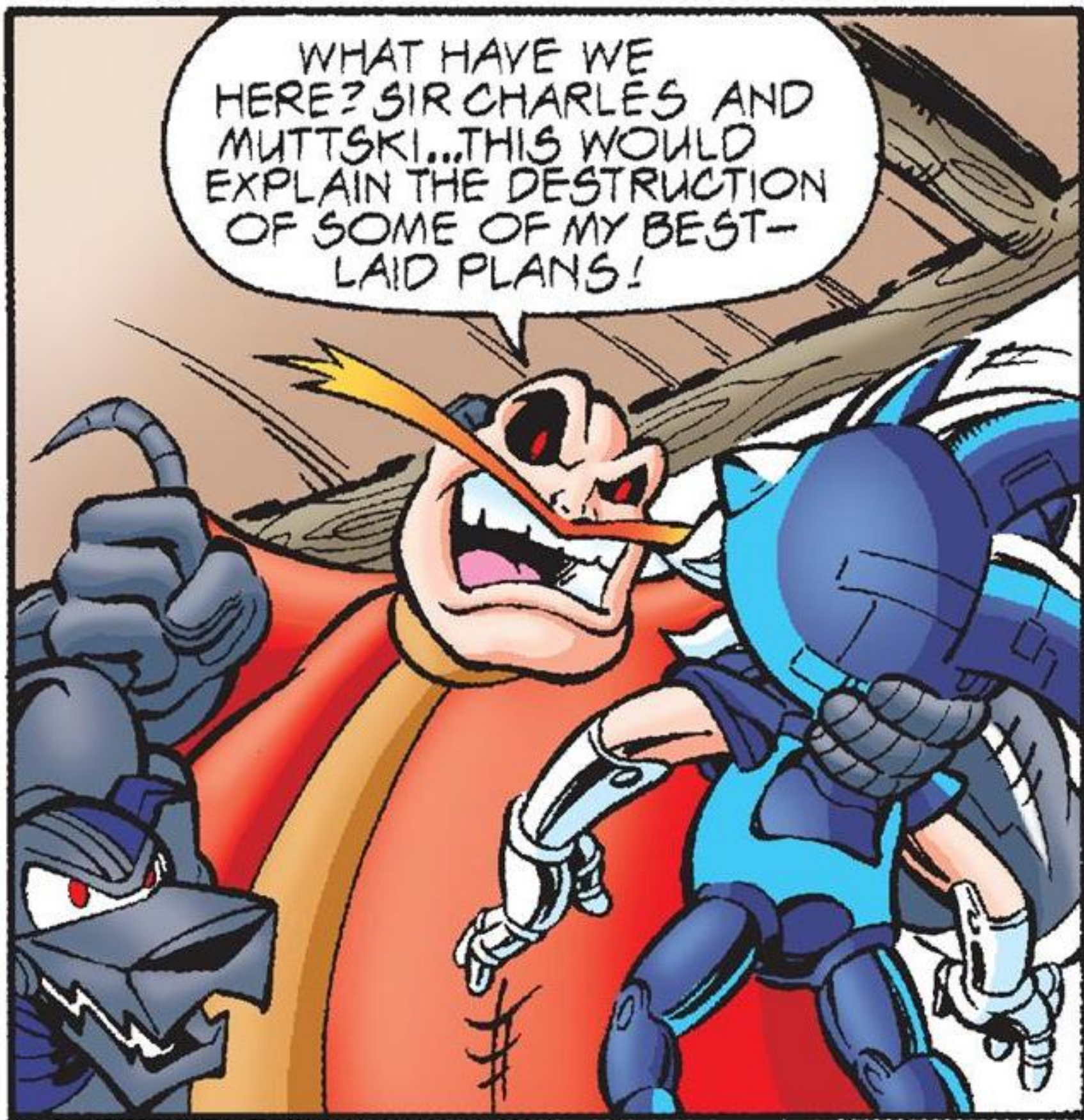
THAT IS WHY I HAVE SEEN FIT, FOR THE GOOD OF THE KINGDOM, TO REINSTATE THE POSITION OF WARLORD IN OUR REALM.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND MY CANDIDATE MORE THAN EXPERIENCED TO DO THE JOB... THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE!



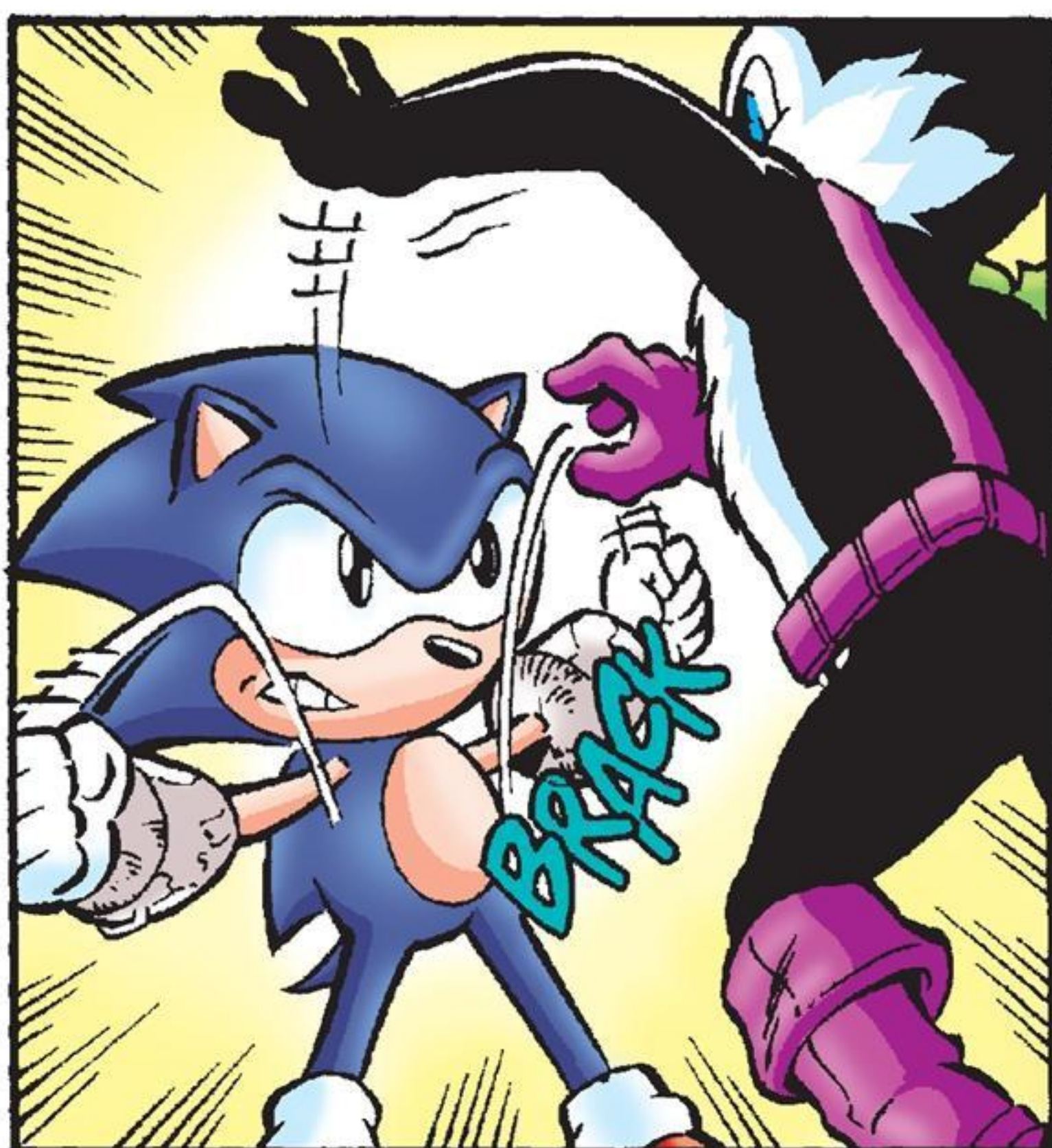
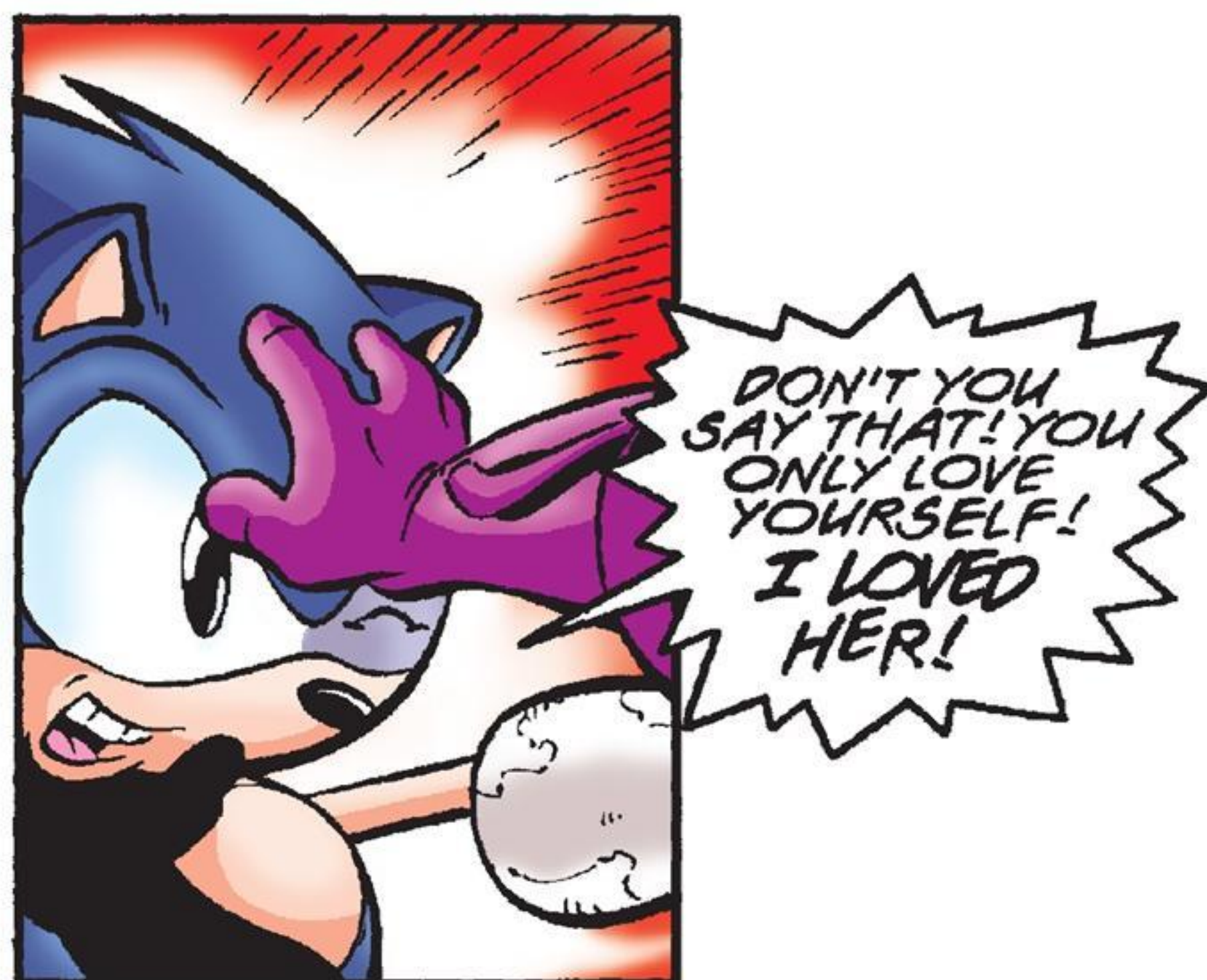
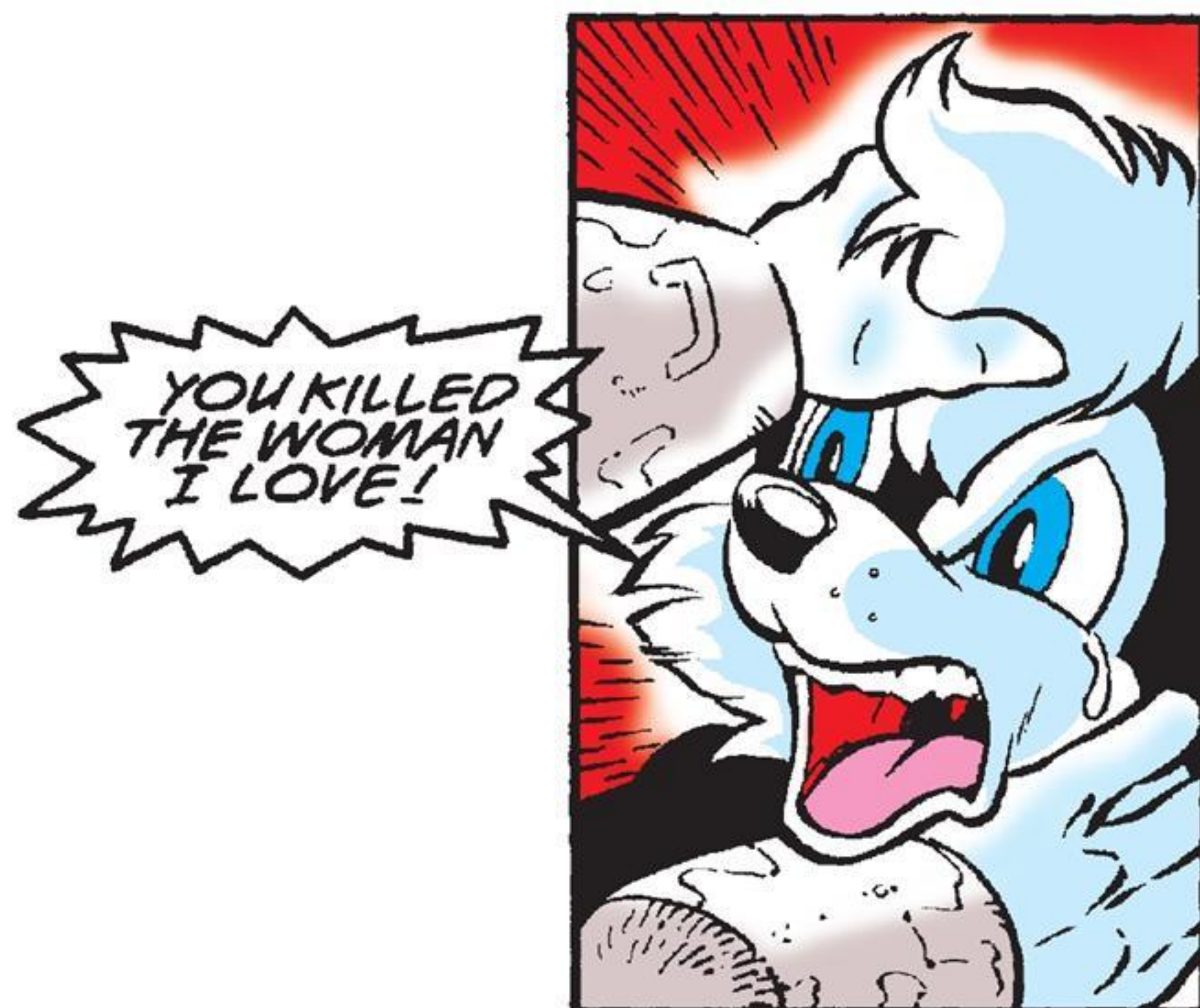
LOYAL SUBJECTS, I AM PLEASED TO INTRODUCE...

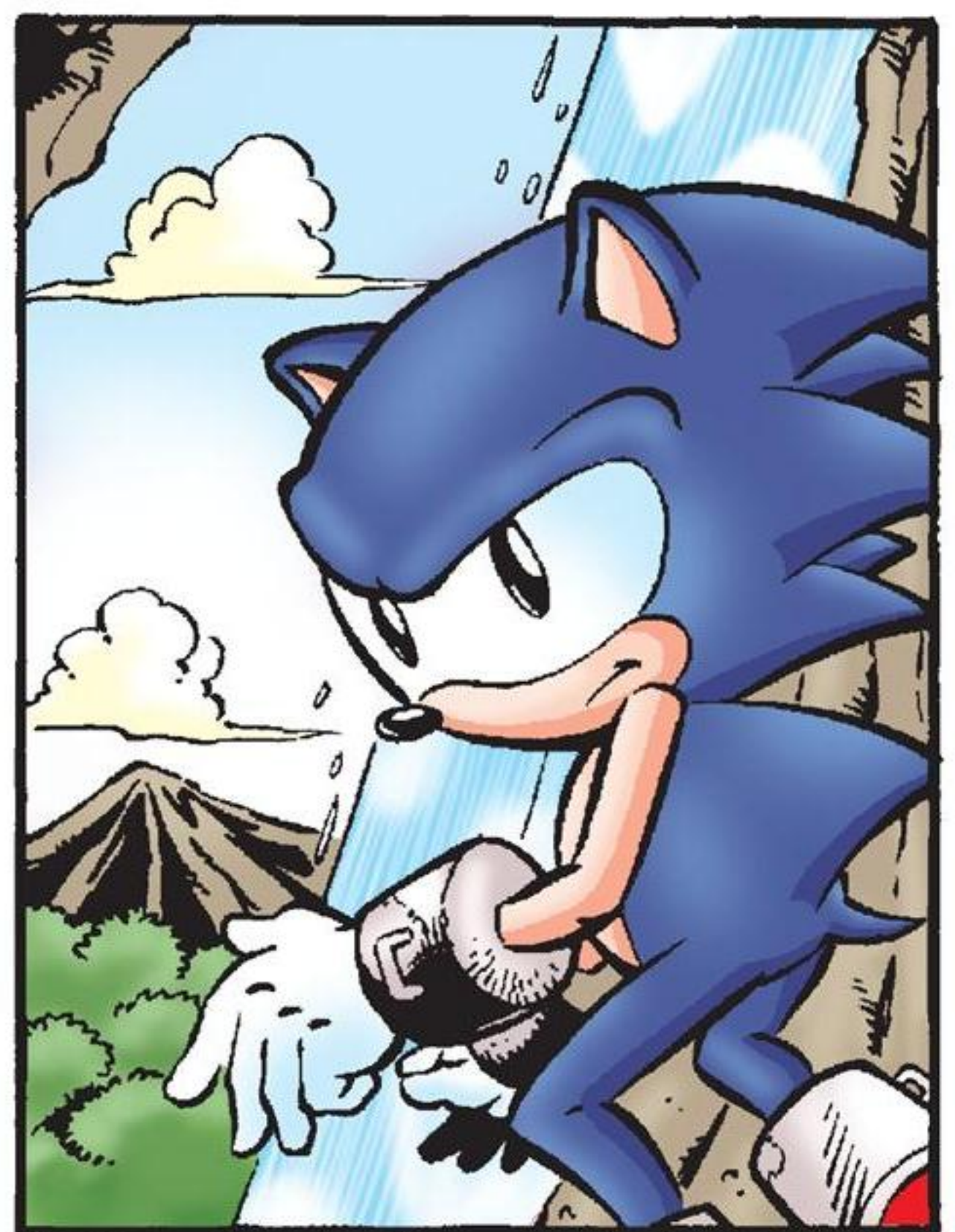
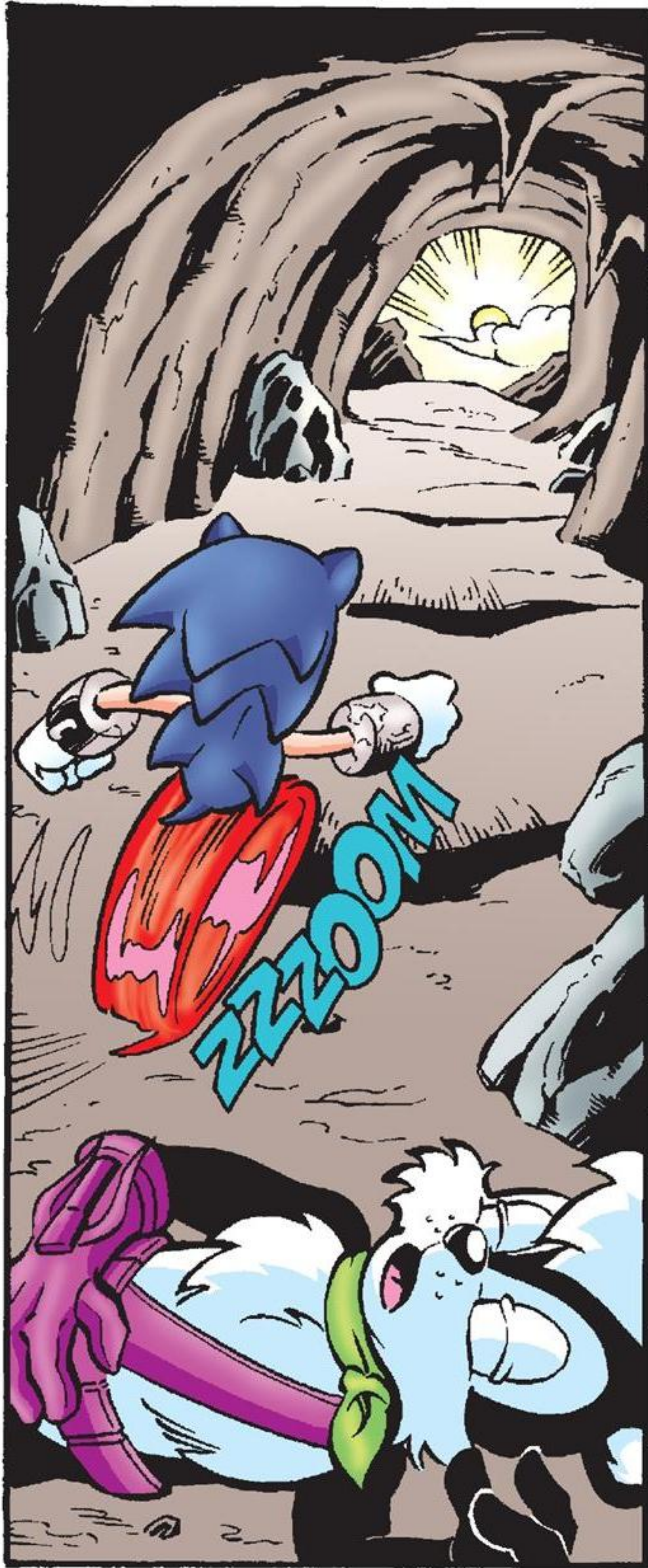




THAT IS FINE, AFTER ALL...I DO HAVE THE TIME...









Brought to you with pride by

script KENT TAYLOR & KEN PENDERS penciler MANNY GALAN
inker PAM EKLUND letterer JEFF POWELL colorist KARL BOLLERS
editor J. FREDDY GABRIE mag. editor VICTOR GORELICK
editor-in-chief RICHARD GOLDWATER

SONIC-GRAMS

J. Freddy Gabrie
Editor

THIS JUST IN!



SONIC #49
On sale MAY 1997!



SONIC & KNUCKLES
BATTLE ROYAL #1
On sale MAY 1997!



KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #4
On sale MAY 1997!

ROBOTNIK IN KNOTHOLE!!! SAY IT ISN'T SO, JOE.

Well it is! What will happen next is anybody's guess! All we can tell you about the continuation to "END GAME" next issue is that its called, "Escape To The Floating Island!" Written by Mike Gallagher and Ken Penders with art chores by newcomer Sam Maxwell and Pam Ekland! On sale early May 1997!

Also in three weeks, the upcoming 48-page special that takes place before the events in last month's issue that everyone is talking about! "KnucklesQuest" is over, but the saga of the Sword of Acorns is not. Mammoth Mogul and his Fearsome Foursome want it for their own purposes. Devising a plan that will keep Knuckles and The Chaotix from delivering the sword to Princess Sally and The Freedom Fighters, isn't that much of a problem when you know what their weaknesses are. Talk about a misunderstanding. It is a tale we could only call "SONIC VS. KNUCKLES: BATTLE ROYAL!!!" Also on sale in early May 1997!

Because you, the fans, have demanded it: KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION three-issue mini-series has graduated to ongoing status! Beginning with issue #4, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA will be on sale late May '97! Continuing in the tradition of the first three issues, every three-issue story-arc will have a triple-combo cover collection. More about this next month!

Freddy

P.S.: As I mentioned last issue, due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail from Sonic fans all over the World Wide Web, Sonic now has an e-mail address devoted solely to "Notes From The Net!" It is SonicNotes@aol.com; please make a 'note' of it. Thanks!

SEND LETTERS TO:
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Because of limited space, the editors cannot guarantee that all correspondence will be published and reserve the right to edit messages as they see fit.

Dear Sonic,

I just finished reading issue #42 and let me tell you Mawhinney's art was stunning and Taylor's script, outstanding! Just one more thing: How did the Floating Island stay afloat if Knuckles lent the chaos emerald to Sonic? KnucklesQuest promises to be interesting. Sonic and Tails are my favorite duo, even though Tails is the biggest blabbermouth on Mobius. SONIC RULES!!!

Christian Ibrahim
N.S.W., Australia

Hey, what's up, gang? It's me, Tails. Shhhh. I'm in hiding since Robotnik took over the village. What a bummer, huh? Since Sonic's not here, I'm doing letters this month. Bet'cha I do a better job than Antoine did last month. Anyway, I don't think I'm a blabbermouth, just full of information, that's all. Knuckles had a spare emerald that he got in the SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES Special #1. That's what he brought with him, not the original that was still keeping the island afloat.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I DON'T WANT KNUCKLES AND SALLY TO GET TOGETHER!!! Look, sure, I admit she's pretty, but she's already got four guys drooling over her and I DON'T LIKE IT!!! Don't get me wrong, Knuckles is a wonderful character in his own right, just not with Sally when everyone knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that Sonic is Sally's guy, period! What do I have to do

to convince you guys, hold my breath till I turn bluer than Sonic?

Susan Hatfield
Dothan, AL

Hey, Susan! I was kind of afraid that "Aunt" Sally liked Knuckles more than Sonic. But now with everything that's going on, it doesn't seem to matter anymore. I just want things to be the way they were—I mean— without Robotnik, of course.

Dear LetterQuest,

I thought SONIC-QUEST #1 was "Da Bomb!" It's great! Now I know the next two books are going to be good. I've been a long-time subscriber of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG since I was twelve. I'm fifteen years old now and I'm in the 10th grade. I like playing Sega Genesis and I LOVE JAPANESE ANIME!!! I read about a new Japanese Sonic cartoon in Game Fan Magazine. It said that it could be rented right now. I'm still looking all over the city for it! Well, I've got to go. Keep up the good work!

Danielle Hardy
Detroit, MI

I'm glad you liked SONICQUEST, Danielle. It was a good learning experience for me to tag along with Sonic and learn on the job from the man himself. I still believe in him. I know that there's no way he could've hurt Sally. I agree with Uncle Chuck—I think Sonic is innocent. But how do I prove that with Butt-nik breathing down my neck. I wonder if there's a

connection between the two. I've got to think about this for a while...



Hey Sonic,

I learned that another character from the animated series is coming to the comic book: Lupe and her Wolf Pack. After the experience in SONIC #39, MECHA MADNESS Special #1 and SONIC #40, I hope you learned an important lesson: "Be careful what you wish for, you might just get it!"

I have a question concerning Antoine: Will he still be your friend even after SONIC #40 or will he turn on you like Sleuth Dawggy Dawg did in #42? Who knows, he might end up serving Enerjak. Speaking of which, when is Enerjak making an appearance again. See you in END GAME!

Danny Wheeler
jawheeler@juno.com

Sonic didn't speak to Antoine for a while after that except when it came to business. After Antoine stood up for Sonic against Geoffrey St. John in SONIC #46, I thought they might be able to bury the hatchet—that is, until Antoine saw Sonic drop Sally. Hey, where is Antoine anyway? Come to think of it, I don't see Bunnie, either. Gotta go. See you next month.